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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 2018

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Torres allegedly urged Muña's ouster

By ERWIN ENCINARES

ov. Ralph DLG Torres reportedly asked the newly formed Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board last week to terminate the corporation's chief executive officer, Esther Muña.



Muña

When asked about it, Muña told Saipan Tribune that she has not been personally asked by Torres nor the CHCC board to step down from her position as CEO, and indicated that even if she was, she has no plans to do so.

"I have no intention of re-

signing," Muña said in an interview yesterday. She added that her position is not as simple as others may think, and included in the long list of responsibilities of the CEO is taking care of patients alongside taking care of employees.

"...There's a lot of layers involved in this job," she said. ... "It's working with what you've got, so

it's not an easy job."

The Torres administration did not immediately respond to Saipan Tribune's request for comments.

CHCC board chair Lauri Ogumoro declined to confirm the allegation nor give details in a phone call yesterday, aside from saying that that the CHCC board is working with the Office of

See TORRES on Page 4



A Delta Air Lines aircraft carrying over 100 passengers from Japan lands at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday afternoon shortly after the pilot reportedly made an emergency call to the Commonwealth Ports Authority due to a mechanical issue. Other photo shows Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel and emergency vehicles on standby at the airport, shortly before the Delta plane landed and pulled up to its gate.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

A Delta Air Lines aircraft carrying over 100 passengers from Japan and was bound for Saipan reportedly had a mechanical issue yesterday afternoon, but safely landed at the Francisco C.

Ada/ Saipan International Airport. The plane made an emergency call

at the Commonwealth Ports Authority to inform it about the issue as it neared Saipan but managed to land normally and pull up to its gate.

Passengers exited the plane as planned and no emergency exits were required, according to DPS spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard.

Emergency vehicles and person-

See DELTA on Page 4



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Airbus is considering stopping making the costly A380 superjumbo jet.

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NATION

Two of Martin Luther King Jr.'s children denounce Donald Trump.

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LIFE & STYLE

Dolores O'Riordan, the vocalist for The Cranberries, has died. She was 46.

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2 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

Low oxygen levels, coral bleaching getting worse



This 2017 photo provided by NOAA shows bleached coral in Guam. A study released on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 finds that severe bleaching outbreaks are hitting coral reefs four times more often they used to a few decades earlier.

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

....

WASHINGTON (AP)-

Global warming is making the world's oceans sicker, depleting them of oxygen and harming delicate coral reefs more

often, two studies show.

The lower oxygen levels are making marine life far more vulnerable, the research-

ers said. Oxygen is crucial for nearly all life in the oceans, except for a few microbes.

"If you can't breathe, nothing else matters. That pretty much describes it," said study lead author Denise Breitburg, a marine ecologist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. "As seas are losing oxygen, those areas are no longer habitable by many organisms."

She was on a team of scientists, convened by the United Nations, who reported that the drop in oxygen levels is getting worse, choking large areas, and is more of a complex problem than previously thought. A second study finds that severe bleaching caused by warmer waters is hitting once-colorful coral reefs four times more often than they used to a few decades ago. Both studies are in Thursday's edition of the journal Science.

When put all together, there are more than 12 million square miles (32 million square kilometers) of ocean with low oxygen levels at a depth of several hundred feet (200 meters), according to the scientists with the Global Ocean Oxygen Network. That amounts to an area bigger than the continents of Africa or North America, an increase of about 16 percent since 1950. Their report is the most comprehensive look at oxygen deprivation in the world's seas.

"The low oxygen problem is the biggest unknown climate change consequence out there," said Lisa Levin, a study co-author and professor of biological oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Levin said researchers have seen coastal "dead zones" from fertilizer pollution from farms before, as well as areas of low oxygen in open ocean blamed on warmer waters, but this study shows how the two problems are interconnected with common causes and potential solutions.

"Just off Southern California, we've lost 20 to 30 percent of our oxygen off the outer shelf," Levin said. "That's a huge loss."

Some low oxygen levels in the world's ocean are natural, but not this much, Breitburg said. A combination of changes in winds and currents—likely from climate change—is leaving oxygen on the surface, and not bringing it down lower as usual. On top of that, warmer water simply doesn't hold as much oxygen and less oxygen dissolves and gets into the water, she said.

"Oxygen loss is a real and significant problem in the oceans," said University of Georgia marine scientist Samantha Joye, who wasn't part of the study but praised it. Levels of ocean oxygen are "changing potentially faster than higher organisms can cope."

In a separate study, a team of experts looked at 100 coral reefs around the globe and how often they have had severe bleaching since 1980. Bleaching is caused purely by

warmer waters, when it's nearly 2 degrees (1 degree Celsius) above the normal highest temperatures for an area.

In the early 1980s, bleaching episodes would happen at a rate of once every 25 to 30 year. As of 2016, they now are happening just under once every six years, the study found.

Bleaching isn't quite killing the delicate corals, but making them extremely sick by breaking down the crucial microscopic algae living inside the coral. Bleaching is like "ripping out your guts" for coral, said study co-author Mark Eakin, coordinator of the Coral Reef Watch program for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Guam has been one of the hardest places hit with eight severe bleaching outbreaks since 1994, four of them in the last five years, Eakin said. The Florida Keys, Puerto Rico and Cuba have been hit seven times.

It takes time to recover from bleaching, and the increased frequency means coral doesn't get the chance to recover before the next outbreak, Eakin said.

Only six of the 100 coral reefs weren't hit by severe bleaching: four around Australia, one in the Indian Ocean and another off South Africa.

Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb, who studies reefs but wasn't part of this international team, applauded the research and said that as the world warms more there will be "profound and lasting damage on global reefs."



Man, 56, gets prison for sexual abuse of boy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A 56-year-old man who plead-

ed guilty to sexually abusing a 15-year-old boy in 2014 was slapped with a prison term of 12 years and six months yesterday.

Jose Albert R. Santos was be eligible for parole. sentenced to 15 years in prison, with two years and six months suspended. He won't

After completing his prison term, Santos will be placed on 10 years of probation, during

which he will not be allowed any unsupervised contact with minors. He will also be required to register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry, among other conditions.

At Santos' sentencing, the victim took the stand and told Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo that the incident still haunts him every day.

Santos pleaded guilty last month to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree as part of a plea deal.

Under the agreement, Santos shall be sentenced to between eight and 15 years of imprisonment, to be determined at the sentencing hearing.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio had recommended the maximum prison term of 15 years, without the possibility of parole.

Tenorio said this will hold Santos accountable for his crime, is proportional to his conduct, and serves the interests of justice to pro-

ter others from committing similar crimes.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, counsel for Santos, had recommended a sentence of eight years imprisonment, with no fines.

tect the community, and de-

Nesbit said that given Santos' age, an eight-year prison sentence will be hard and is well above the statutory minimum.

According to police, Santos had sexual contact with the boy on Saipan on Oct. 3, 2014.

In February 2017, Govendo found Santos competent to stand trial.

In 2014, the Office of the Attorney General charged Santos with three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Santos was arrested in October 2014. He was placed under house arrest after posting a \$50,000 property bond.

The boy alleged that Santos had been sexually abusing him since September 2014 and would give him \$2 to \$10 after each incident.



MEET-AND-GREET WITH ICE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer Patrick McCallion, right, joins members of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs led by Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan (R-Saipan), third from left, in a committee meeting last week on Capital Hill. The meeting was a meet-and-greet with ICE in order to obtain information about ongoing immigration and customs enforcement procedures and how the Legislature could assist with the investigations and proceedings. ERWIN ENCINARES







Fee created for decompression chamber

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A tank surcharge fee has been created to secure funding for the purchase of a decompression chamber.

In enacting Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-09, the new law would require scuba dive shop operators to impose on divers a \$10 surcharge fee per tank. The collected fees would be used to purchase a decompression chamber in the CNMI.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer is designated as the expenditure authority over the funds.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the bill into law last Jan. 5.

Right now, patients requiring the aid of a decompression chamber would have to be brought to Guam.

A decompression chamber, also known as a hyperbaric

chamber or a recompression chamber, is an equipment that produces a high-pressure environment to treat compression sickness, which is common for scuba divers that ascend from great depths without properly normalizing pressures within their bodies.

Without gradually ascend-

ing to the surface after an extended diving session or after diving at great depth, the body forms a buildup of pressure due to inert gases dissolved in the body.

Divers who suffer from compression sickness may sustain long-term injuries or even death if not treated promptly.

The decompression chamber also has several health benefits associated with the treatment of conditions such as diabetes, carbon monoxide poisoning, or bacterial and radiation illnesses.

The new law goes into the books as Public Law 20-36.

'NMHC is working to gain more resources to help homeless'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Now, more than ever, help is needed, not just for the literal homeless but for the many in the Commonwealth who are also at risk of becoming homeless.

On Saipan alone, there are about 672 homeless individuals (a combination of those who are literally homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless)—and they are

either living on the streets, in dilapidated housing, or live by the beach, where it is unsafe, according to Jacob Muna, an environmental officer with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni Restaurant, Muña said the Commonwealth has very limited resources when it comes to assisting the homeless.

"Right now, the CNMI does

not have emergency shelters for the homeless," he said.

By participating in an upcoming homeless count in the CNMI, Muna said this could help establish ways to assist the homeless and at-risk homeless here in the CNMI.

The count is one of the requirements needed for the Commonwealth to avail of the "continuum of care" grant, a program provided by Housing and Urban Development to aid in combating homelessness.

"With the 'continuum of care' grant that we're applying for, there is a component to assist people in finding jobs to make them self-reliant," said Muña.

In a separate interview, Muña pointed out that there are only a few agencies that assist the homeless of the CNMI. Of the few, Karidat Social Services is the only agency that offers opportunities for the homeless but even then, space is limited due to the lack of funding.

Karidat is allocated roughly \$70,000 to assist the homeless in the CNMI.

"We do have a homeless program currently in place through HUD that provides assistance for up to 10 months—the Emergency Solutions grant, which the subrecipient is Karidat Social Services. This grant basically helps individuals who are literally homeless or are at risk of being homeless," he said.

At the end of 10 months, recipients are required to provide a plan to one's case management worker about what you're going to do to improve

your life such as jobs, re-enrolling in school, etc.

"The success rate for that program is about 90 percent. At the end of the program, the families or the individuals either have found a job and are currently staying in their provided apartment or their new apartment, or were transferred to the Section 8 program under NMHC," Muña said.

It is hoped that the upcoming count will be a steppingstone for more opportunities for the homeless in the Commonwealth.

The count will take place on Jan. 27, 2018.

Rota fire station to be renamed

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The House of Representatives is looking to rename a fire station on Rota.

Rep. Glenn Maratita's (R-Rota) House Bill 20-144 is seeking to rename the Rota Fire Station 8 after assistant fire chief Robert O. Hocog.

Hocog was instrumental in

the creation of the fire division under the Department of Public Safety on Rota, where Public Law 18-73 separated DPS from the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services back in 2015.

Hocog was able to implement standard operating procedures that until now are still followed by the DFEMS. He then went on

to serve the department for a total of 22 years.

H.B. 20-144 not only renames Fire Station 8, but also affixes the main entrance of the facility with the words "Robert O. Hocog Fire Station."

H.B. 20-144 also calls for Mayor of Rota Efraim Atalig, in coordination with members of the DFEMS Rota and Hocog himself, to prepare a plan of dedication to be submitted within 60 days of the law's enactment.

H.B. 20-144 has garnered the support of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operation Committee members present during discussions, adopting the bill for House action through a vote of 4-0.

Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), and chair Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) were present.

Judi- 21 set to graduate Customs' 7th cycle

graduate from the Division of Customs' 7th cycle of officers in a graduation ceremony tomorrow morning at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Last year only 10 officers

A total of 21 persons are set to

Last year only 10 officers completed the 10-month training while also completing a total of over 280 hours of drills and seminars.

Candidates for graduation of the seventh cycle academy of the Division of Customs include Raymond Peter DLC Cabrera, Shota N. Castro, Jessica C. Deleon Guerrero, Wai Lun Guan, Jesus T. Iguel, Nicole Juliet DLR Kapileo,

Franklin K. Lizama, Mcknox Mabel, Harry T. Nakamura Jr., Maelyn Naputi, Jesseleo T. Ogo, Christian Anthony C. Pangelinan, Eddi Joe S. Pangelinan, Kristen D. Pangelinan, Paul Anthony Quizon, Elden Sablan, Franklin Sablan, Jocelyn Sonia Taitingfong, Mark Tuan-Iam, Rico Vince DLG Villagomez, and Justine R. Zapanta.

It is worth noting that during last year's 6th cycle academy, only one female officer was able to graduate. With the inclusion of the 7th cycle, there are now over 20 female officers serving Customs. *(Erwin Encinares)*

TORRES

From Page 1

the Governor.

"We are working with [Governor Torres] on determining plans for the hospital," said Ogumoro, adding that she does not want to comment any further "...because the board is working through these issues.,"

In a letter to Torres by a CHCC physician who wishes not to be named and written on behalf of the medical staff of CHCC, said that they collectively wish for an opportunity to comment on Torres' alleged request to "replace" Muña.

"Although we are not privy to any specific concerns you have about the current hospital governance, we do feel it vital to express our concerns regarding any abrupt change. All of us deal with the frustrations involved in working in a resource-limited environment, and all of us spend enormous amounts of personal time in improving the healthcare we feel privileged to deliver," the letter states, a copy of which Saipan Tribune had obtained. "We reflect on the state of care available only a few short years ago, and feel the need to

acknowledge that we would not have come this far without the unique efforts of [Muña]."

While the letter did not openly support Muña's continued role as hospital CEO and acknowledged that there is no perfect organization, it warned Torres that fixing what isn't broken may lead to "irreparable harm" and even the possible loss of medical professionals, ultimately impacting healthcare as a whole.

"Indeed, if new blood would serve to reinvigorate our progress and solve some of our more persistent issues, we could only applaud the result. However, we feel it would be calamitous to do so in a disorderly fashion, and fear that any precipitous action would result in irreparable harm to our immediate function, with loss of professional staff and hospital function a real possibility," the letter states, adding that the consequences would likely bring "lasting harm" to the patients, the community, and to the island overall.

The letter suggested that a search for a qualified replacement to Muña be "begun in a professional manner," adding that candidates for her position should be vetted thoroughly. According to the let-

ter, Muña's replacement—if the CHCC board does proceed to terminate the CEO—should have at least five or more years experience in managing a hospital of a similar or larger size.

The search for Muña's replacement, the letter said, must not be limited to candidates in the CNMI but to the whole country.

"We absolutely feel that it is unacceptable to settle for lesser qualifications for reason of expediency or obligation. Our patients, our staff, and our families, deserve the most highly qualified leadership we can possibly find and we would be honor-bound not to succumb to more petty gratifications," the letter added.

In a previous message to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Torres expressed dissatisfaction with Muña's decision to "prioritize \$200,000 for the renovation of the hospital's new outpatient pharmacy" over the purchase of new equipment for its existing inpatient pharmacy.

"I advise CHCC to prudently determine and manage its financial priorities for the benefit of our patients and the vitality of our island's only hospital. I remain open as always to discuss

ways to achieve this purpose in coordination with the Legislature," he said in the same statement to the delegation.

Torres' statement to the delegation also quoted a "separate statement" that he is disappointed with Muña for not prioritizing the procurement of "vital equipment" for the hospital.

"If CHCC is in need of vital equipment to better serve our patients and community, then that should have been taken cared of first, rather than to prioritize the renovation of an outpatient pharmacy when an existing pharmacy is still there within the hospital to provide outpatient services," he said.

"I will continue to ensure that essential healthcare services will be adequately funded for the hospital this year, but I will not tolerate the current management's lack of financial priorities," he added.

Last Jan. 11, 2018, CHCC officially opened its own outpatient pharmacy, replacing PHI Pharmacy, a private outpatient pharmacy with a lease agreement with CHCC. The lease between CHCC and PHI expired last August 2017 and ultimately was not renewed.

DELTAFrom Page 1

nel were, however, on standby at the airport. That included personnel from CPA's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, and Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Shepard said the plane's pilot had reported a change in cabin pressure so ports police and DFEMS had to prepare. There was no immediate word on what caused the change in cabin pressure.

DFEMS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita said that DFEMS received an alert from ARFF at 1:40pm about an inbound aircraft declaring an emergency. DFEMS deployed all available trucks, ambulance, rescue vehicles and personnel to the staging

area of the airport.

Norita said the airplane landed without incident and no injuries were reported.

"We activated our personnel...then we deployed to the staging area to stand by what ARFF might need in assistance from us," Norita said.

Norita said from DFEMS was there to assist the ARFF and CPA.

Norita activated the DFEMS personnel at 1:57pm, shortly after receiving an Alert 2 from ARFF. An Alert 2 basically means an aircraft emergency that is still in the air.

Norita said the emergency was not classified until they got to the airport.

All DFEMS personnel on duty, except those assigned in Kagman, were deployed at the airport, along with an ambulance and three backup units.

As of press time, CPA and Delta had yet to issue a statement about the incident.

ESGR's **Patriot** Award is given to 3 employers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

The Employer Support of the Guards and Reserve Committee for Guam and the CNMI on Friday honored three employers in the CNMI who have been supportive of their employees who are also service members.

The ESGR awarded the prestigious Patriot Award to Claire Sablan from the CNMI Legislative Bureau, Tyrone Celis from POI Aviation, and Vince Pangelinan from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for their efforts in providing support for their service member employees.

The three awardees are employers nominated by a



service member, or a service member's loved one.

In related news, ESGR hosted its 10th Planning and Training Meeting on Saipan over the weekend.

ESGR volunteers in the CNMI hosted the two-day event that focused on analyzing and improving the core events that are held every year by ESGR in order to make it more effective in achieving ESGR's vision and mission in Guam and the CNMI.

from Don Clark, ESGR comvolunteers on Saipan.

have held our annual planning and training meeting in the CNMI. [This year] we started the APTM on Friday by hosting a breakfast for Saipan employers to inform them of the [Uniformed employment rights of their the [World War II] historical Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

service member employees. We then took all the volunof 1994], which protects the teers on a full day tour of

sites on Saipan, courtesy of the Saipan Mayor's Office," he said.

During the entire Saturties for the upcoming fiscal day and half of Sunday, the committee planned and outlined the events and activi- ESGR's mission.

year and focused on training volunteers to achieve





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2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX Drivetrain: AWD Engine: 2.4 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 3787 Color: Clear White

According to a wiki source, ESGR's mission is to develop and promote supportive work and a supportive environment for service members in the reserves through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable laws, and resolves employment conflicts between the service members and their employers.

According to an email mittee chair for Guam and the CNMI, the training took place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Jan. 13 and 14 and was attended by 18 of the Guam-CNMI ESGR volunteers, of which four were

"For the past 10 years we



2016 KIA SPORTAGE EX Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.4 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 19778 Color: Black

2016 KIA SOUL EX

Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC

Color: BLUE/WHITE

Transmission: Automatic

Est. Mileage: 22,050 MILES

Stk# G7379546 Drivetrain: FWD



Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 17320 Color: White 20.995



2015 NISSAN QUEST S Stk# F9123375 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5L V6 D0HC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 18425 S20.995

2012 NISSAN XTERRA S

Transmission: Automatic

Est. Mileage: 41328

S18.995

Stk# CC527339 Drivetrain: 4WD

18.995 **2016 KIA SOUL EX** Stk# G7313155 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 L DOHC 16 valves Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 23540

\$18,995

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2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV

Stk# DC843965

Drivetrain: FWD

Engine: 3.5 LITER

Transmission: Automatic CV

Est. Mileage: 35550

S18.995



2016 KIA SPORTAGE LX Stk# G7839370 Drivetrain: AWD Engine: 2.4-liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 29200 Color: WHITE S17.995

01/1

2014 KIA SEDONA LX Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 50,688 Color: SILVER \$13.995





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Gillespie: CNMI Red Kettle may have broken record



Wayne Gillespie, far right, receives \$6,000 worth of vouchers that were donated during the Red Kettle season. The donations will be used for the Salvation Army CNMI Chapter's projects. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The NMI Chapter of the Salvation Army saw a recordbreaking increase in funds raised from its annual Red worth of vouchers that may be Kettle fundraiser.

According to minister Wayne Gillespie of the Salvation Army, the CNMI Chapter received a donation of \$6,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

a record, at least in the region.

"We were flabbergasted... Saipan Stevedore, Saipan Shipping, and PHI Pharmacy all came together and donated

\$6,000 in vouchers to our kettle," said Gillespie.

A donation that size is huge for the chapter; Gillespie said it could possibly be the largest amount raised from the kettle season fundraiser for the entire Micronesian region.

'We believe it's a record, at least for Micronesia...a \$300 to \$400 kettle is pretty big. It's larger than average and that one was \$6,000. We think that it's probably a regional record," he said.

The Salvation Army does the Red Kettle fundraiser around the world during the holiday season, starting the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. This year, the kettle season concluded on Dec. 23.

"We want to thank our hosts. Joeten Superstore has been hosting our kettle for 12 years and we really appreciate that," said Gillespie.

This year was also significant for the chapter because they were given the opportunity to expand their kettle lo-

"This year we added Joeten Susupe. They were gracious enough to host our kettles so we added some there and we did counter kettles, which are smaller versions of the kettles and we just put them on the counters," Gillespie said.

The I Love Saipan shops not only hosted kettles but also donated packed meals for the NMI Chapter's soup kitchen.

"They [kettles] were hosted by I Love Saipan, we really appreciated that. In addition to that, I Love Saipan donated quite a bit of food to our soup kitchen in the form of bentos (packed meals) and so we fed a lot of people with those bentos," he said.

Gillespie said the amount raised from the Red Kettle fundraiser will be used for the chapter's ongoing projects.

"We really appreciate that and we already have plans for the funds. We have some things we need for the soup kitchen, and we're working on that," he said.

The kettles raised over \$6,000, but the exact amount will be announced at a later date.

Tinian man allegedly stole CUC copper wire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com

Police arrested a man on Tinian over the weekend for allegedly stealing hundreds of feet of copper wire from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Mario Borja Adriano, 32, was arrested on charges of theft, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass. His bail was set yesterday at \$20,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Jan. 25 at 1:30pm.

Police said a Tinian CUC employee had called police last Dec. 13 to report that someone had stolen CUC's drop line at a home in Marpo Heights. The CUC employee said that he and his partner noticed the missing service drop line leading to a house during a routine check on weather heads.

The same CUC employee

called the police again last Dec. 18 to report that 100 feet of CUC wire had been stolen from a telephone pole leading to an abandoned house.

The CUC staff then contacted the police last Dec. 26 to report that 120 feet of CUC wire that was being used as a drop line to an abandoned house had also been stolen.

The following day, Dec. 27, the CUC employee reported to police that a routine check on another abandoned house again showed that about 320 feet of CUC wire had been stolen.

In an interview with an employee of a recycling center last Jan. 8, police learned that Adriano had sold copper wire to the center last Dec. 18 and 19.

Police seized the stolen wire weighing 33 kilos that were valued at over \$1,000.



Northern Marianas College **Procurement & Property Management Office**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 18-002

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Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of a NEW AQUATIC FILTRATION EQUIPMENT.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 19, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-002 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August $11,\,1955,\,$ award # 2016-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho Procurement & Property Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: 670-233-0777 Fax: 670-233-0776 Attorney for Petitioner

THOMPSON LAW, LLC

COLIN M. THOMPSON, F0221

2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

APPOINT GENERAL **GUARDIANSHIP FOR** CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0009 NOTICE OF

FCD GU

By: The Mother Hong Mei Zhao

HEARING FOR PETITION FOR OF GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the court will

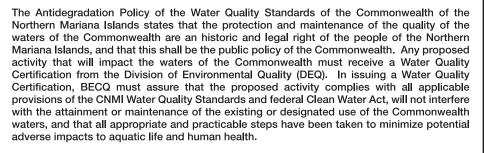
hear Petitioner's Petition for Appointment of

General Guardianship for the above matter is set

on January 18, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

SO ENTERED this 16th day of January, 2018.

/S/ PATRICK DIA7 CLERK OF COURT



The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, the implementing regulations, and the CNMI Water Quality Standards, as amended. EPA is issuing a notice of proposed action to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (no. MP0020397) to the following discharger subject to certain effluent limitations and other conditions:

> Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., Saipan Terminal P.O. Box 500367 Saipan, MP 96950

The applicant operates a petroleum bulk storage terminal located at the Saipan Seaport. Industrial stormwater and wastewater will be discharged from the facility to the Seaport's storm sewer system, which in turn discharges to Tanapag Harbor at N 15 degrees 13'35", E 145 degrees 44'12". The facility is located at Petroleum Lane, Puerto Rico Village, MP, 96950.

BECQ is considering a request to certify the discharges described above, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. The certification will set forth any limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to ensure compliance with water quality standards under Section 303, area-wide waste treatment management plans under Section 208(e), effluent limitations under Sections 301 and 302, standards of performance under Section 306, prohibitions, effluent standards or pretreatment standards under Section 307 of the CWA, and any other appropriate requirement

BECQ may certify conditions that are more stringent than those in the draft permit under its CWA Section 401 authority. For each more stringent condition, BECQ shall cite the CWA or CNMI law references upon which the condition is based.

Written comments and inquiries should be submitted to BECQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice on December 29, 2017. The deadline to submit comments and inquiries is on January 29, 2018. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.





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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

High surf advisory cancelled

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, the high surf advisory declared for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is cancelled. The high rip current risk warning is also cancelled.

Buoy data and observations have indicated that the surf has decreased below hazardous levels. Computer models also indicate that surf should remain below hazardous the next few days. However, the public is being advised to continue to be cautious near reeflines as strong rip currents may still occur. (EOC)

MHS PTA meeting set

The Parent Teacher Association of Marianas High School invites all parents, teachers, and guardians to the PTA meeting today, Jan. 17, 6pm, at the MHS cafeteria. *(PR)*

Guam lawmakers to host legislative prayer breakfast

HAGATNA, Guam—The Office of Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, Speaker Benjamin J. Cruz and members of the 34th Guam Legislature will be hosting a legislative prayer breakfast at the Guam Congress Building tomorrow, Jan. 18, from 8:30am to 10:30am.

"The purpose of the breakfast is to bring civil- and faith-based leaders together to discuss issues and concerns of the island and how we can all work collaboratively," Rodriguez said.

The breakfast, which Rodriguez hopes to make an annual event, will be an opportunity for all to pray for strength and guidance when it comes to policymaking and making decisions that will affect the island community, especially in the new year. *(PR)*

Learn how to set up an LLC or partnership

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar on how to set up an LLC or partnership. The seminar will be held at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 8:30am to 9:30am. It will be presented by lawyer Michael Dotts. This seminar is supported by the CNMI Department of Commerce and

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-009

ALTERNATIVE POTABLE DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION

CDA. To register, contact the SBDC office at (670) 664-3018 or go online at http:// pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/ events. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 today, Jan. 17, from 2pm to 6pm, and at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on:

- Jan. 17, from 10am to 9pm
- Jan. 18, from 12:30pm to 9pm
- Jan. 19, from 11am to 3pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators, monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting tomorrow

The Kagman cluster of

schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting tomorrow, Jan. 18, 2018, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Kagman High School open house today

Kagman High School will be hosting an open House today, Jan. 17, 2018, from 5pm to 7pm. We invite parents to check-in at 5pm in the KHS cafe. They will be escorted to their choice of presentations given by KHS teachers and staff about the programs and initiatives happening at the school. Parents will earn raffle tickets after each presentation they attend. Afterwards, we will be showcasing student talent in the cafe for a closing presentation and raffle with light refreshments. Parents who attend will be entered into the endof-the-year raffle. Call 664-3780 for inquiries. (PR)

Volunteers sought for homeless survey

The CNMI Homeless Coalition will be conducting its 2nd Annual "Point In Time Count" on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, from 5am to 5pm. The purpose of the PIT Count is to continue data collection to allow the CNMI Homeless Coalition to identify program and service need areas to assist those who are at risk of being homeless and those who are literally homeless.

The coalition is seeking community volunteers to

assist in the administration of the PIT Count surveys. The orientation for the PIT Count is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2018, from 1pm to 4:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Volunteers will need to register no later than Jan. 17, 2018.

For more information, or to register to be a volunteer, contact:

- Jacob Muna at 234-7689/483-9447 or through email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.
- Vivian Sablan at 664-2550/664-2592 or through email at vsablan@dys.gov.
- Jennifer Tanaka at 664-2554 or through email at jtanaka@dys.gov.mp
- Gennie Bliss at 664-2550 or through email at glbliss@dys.gov.mp (PR)

UOG to unveil ultrahigh-speed network on Jan. 18

On Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, University of Guam president Robert Underwood, University of Hawaii System president David Lassner, and Network Startup Resource Center director Steven Huter will hold an online teleconference to commemorate the completion of the Guam Open Research & Education eXchange, or GOREX.

The University of Hawaii, working with the University of Guam and GTA, completed the installation of the GOREX network last Jan. 8,

GOREX is an ultra-highspeed 100-gigabit-per-second network that connects

Guam to Hawaii and California via the new SEA-U.S. fiber-optic submarine cable. When GOREX lit up and went live, Guam finally connected to the global Research and Education Network fabric and became capable of supporting high-speed exchanges of very large scientific datasets between Guam and other research institutions. (PR)

CNMI/Japanese Descent Association reaches out

The CNMI/Japanese Descent Association is reaching out to all local families who are lineal descendants of Japan. The mission of the association is to organize and reinvigorate Japanese cultural heritage in the Northern Mariana Islands. For all members who are interested in joining the association, contact Dave Sablan Sr. at dmsab@aol.com or Norman Tenorio at norten@ pacificains.com /cell: 287-0751. **(PR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Happy second birthday, Isaiah Francisco! Love, Mommy, Daddy, and Ezekiel.

SYSTEM INSTALLATION The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation Project in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of installation of alternative potable drinking water disinfection systems at five (5) potable drinking water disinfection points in the CNMI, one (1) on the island of Rota, one (1) on the island of Tinian, and three (3) on the island of Saipan. These systems will be evaluated as part of an expanded, one-year pilot-study of alternatives to chlorine gas disinfection. The contractor will be responsible for installation of the automated disinfection systems as well as provision of disinfectant products and any other necessary consumables during the one-year contract period

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-009, Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Bos 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than February 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Officer GARY P. CAMACHO

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Ordnance Plan and North Field Munitions Response Sites Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to attend a public meeting during which elements of the Ordnance Plan and North Field remedial investigation draft final work plan and technical approach will be presented. The remedial investigation is being performed in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your input on work plan components so that a final plan can be prepared, approved, and

> Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 Meeting Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Meeting Location: American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater

For more information about the upcoming meeting, please contact Helene Takemoto, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Project Manager at:

> Department of the Army U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District Programs and Project Management Division **Environmental Programs Branch** Building 230 Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto) Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440 Telephone: 808.835.4088 Fax: 808.835.4129 E-Mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

COLIN M. THOMPSON, F0221 2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg. Tel.: 670-233-0777 Fax: 670-233-0776 Attorney for Petitioner

THOMPSON LAW, LLC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT **FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR

IN RETHE MATTER OF

Minor Child,

By: The Mother Hong Mei Zhao Petitione

HEARING FOR PETITION FOR OF GENERAL GUARDIANSHIF

FCD GU

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 18-0009

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the court will

hear Petitioner's Petition for Appointment of

General Guardianship for the above matter is set

on January 29, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

SO ENTERED this 16th day of January, 2018.

/S/ PATRICK DIAZ CLERK OF COURT

LTA receives CW funding to train more workers

Since transferring the administration of CW fees to the CNMI Scholarship Office this fiscal year, the CNMI Scholarship Office continues its efforts to ensure that the funds are justly distributed, in line with the mandates of U.S. Public Law 110-229.

The use of CW fees is expected to provide financial assistance to educational and vocational institutions that provide training and educational opportunities to prepare students in the CNMI to enter the workforce.

In the CNMI fiscal year 2018 budget, a grand total of \$1.95 million from existing CW fees was appropriated by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to be administered by the CNMI Scholarship Office and distributed to eligible educational and vocational entities.

With the intent to provide complete transparency in the use of CW fees, the CNMI Scholarship Office administrator Rose Pangelinan and the office's board of directors established the Commonwealth Workers Fund Grant under the Marianas Rural Workforce Opportunities by Rehabilitation through Knowledge and Skills, or MRWORKS, which provides the necessary guidelines for entities to submit their proposed work plan and budgets for review.

The Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, and Latte Training Academy were named the official awardees to receive funding from the \$1.9 million CW fees for fiscal year 2018.

Based on a memoran-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Scholarship Office administrator Rose Pangelinan, left, and Latte Training Academy executive director Arielle Buyum shake hands after the awarding of CW funding.

dum of agreement between NMC, NMTI, and the former CW funds administrator, the CNMI Department of Labor, both NMC and NMTI have been guaranteed \$547,766 each, based on this MOA, while LTA has been approved a budget of \$578,680 by the CNMI Scholarship Office.

This makes up 86 percent of the total appropriation, with the remaining 14 percent to be awarded for certain tasks not included in the initial award.

In return, each entity is expected to provide a semiannual and annual report on the deliverables and job obtainability for each program and other approved expenses funded using CW fees.

"It's been a great experience working with the three entities," said Pangelinan.

Since taking over the administration of the CW funds, the main focus of the CNMI Scholarship Office has been on the deliverables or outcomes, which are in line with the Commonwealth Workers Program job categories.

Data on past deliverables by two previous awardees and proposed deliverables by all three entities were crucial in the award process, said Pangelinan.

The CNMI needs more residents who are trained, certified, and employable in the areas of priority, which is stipulated in the terms and conditions of the awards.

"Our biggest challenge during this whole process was not having enough funds to adequately award all three entities with their requests. However, we will continue to make every effort to identify funds that could be used toward their additional needs," she said.

Each entity has agreed to the quarterly disbursement of funds based on their established budget plan set forth in each institution's award letter.

The CNMI Scholarship Office has already disbursed a combined amount of \$804,046. Thus far, funding of \$353,833 has been disbursed to NMTI; \$273,883 to NMC; and \$176,280 to LTA.

The current distribution of funding to each entity is will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Latte Training Academy executive director Arielle Buyum accepts on behalf of LTA the CW award letter, which will provide funding for the various programs under LTA for fiscal year 2018. This is the first time that LTA will be receiving funding as-

cover the cost of instructor salaries, registration fees, internships, books, materials, equipment and more.

sistance from CW funds.

Each entity will also have the opportunity to submit additional funding requests. which will be subject for approval by the CNMI Scholarship Office administrator and board of directors, based on the availability of funds.

For the first time in CW funding history, LTA will be receiving funding.

"Latte Training Academy is thrilled to finally be included in the CW fee education funding. We appreciate that the CNMI Scholarship Office has recognized our past successes and has entrusted us to effectively utilize funding to train the local workforce," said LTA executive director Arielle Buyum. "Through this funding throughout the year, Latte

Training Academy will offer courses in hotel and hospitality, allied health, information technology and business administration. We encourage all U.S. eligible workers to learn more about our courses and register at www.lattetrainingacademy.com."

The CW funding will allow LTA to fund classes so that their students can become phlebotomy technicians, nursing assistants, information technology certified, hospitality specialists and much more.

Torres said there have been positive strides made to increase the CNMI's local workforce through the CNMI Scholarship Office's initiatives and its collaboration with LTA, NMTI, PSS, and NMC

"I commend [the CNMI Scholarship Office] for its work to ensure that our educational entities receive the funding they need to support those seeking to learn new skills and making themselves employable," said Torres.

"Developing our local workforce truly is a community effort, and I encourage everyone from our NAP Work Registration Program to anyone still looking for a job that fits his or her interest to attend a class and learn a new skill. The resources are here for you. It will go a long way to bettering the lives of your families, your community, and yourself," he added.

For more information about the CNMI Scholarship Office's role as administrator of CW fees, contact Monique Sablan at 664-4752 or email her at monique@cnmischolarship.net. (PR)



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB18-LB-048

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRAURY 20, 2018

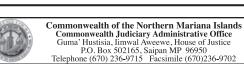
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SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTONIO P. SABLAN Director, legislative bureau

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S





SUBMISSION DATE: January 27, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M. "JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA

/ IIMWAL AWEEWEE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO CHIEF JUSTICE

<u>/s/john t. Villagomez</u> Judiciary Procurement officer

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island February 5-7, 2018.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical **Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office** bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

As a leader in cardiology, he depends on Good Samaritan Hospital to deliver the premier technology and resources

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10 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

#MeToo must stand for the rest of us even though we're not rich and famous

he #MeToo movement sweeping America is not exclusively the purview of famous Hollywood actresses.

It's also taking hold with African American and Hispanic, immigrant and poor women, who are mak-

It's also taking hold with African American and Hispanic, immigrant and poor women, who are making their voices heard. Often, they're the women who clean our bathrooms, make the beds in hotels and take care of the elderly.

It's about time. Sexual harassment, sexual assault and sexual abuse are reprehensible acts—no matter the income, skin color or notoriety of the victim.

But when low-skilled workers are victimized, their economic status too often holds them hostage, said Marcia Olivo, director of the Miami Workers Center. Often, they simply endure and don't complain because they need can't risk losing their jobs. They have to pay the rent, feed the kids. Hiring an attorney is out of the question.

Fighting for their dignity takes a back seat.

The weekly meetings at the Miami Worker's Center have given these women a platform "to speak their truth," as Oprah Winfrey calls it. It's become a model for the rest of the country, and that's something we should all be proud of. The spotlight shone on the center's work after el Nuevo Herald reporter Brenda Medina wrote a touching frontpage article about the horror stories women revealed at a recent meeting.

A maid told of the naked hotel guest who tried to pull her into his bed. A housekeeper complained that a 14-year-old boy in the family groped her—only to be told by his mother that he was simply "reaching puberty." The women—sometimes for the first time—told how their own childhoods were stolen from them by sexual abuse. Powerful stuff.

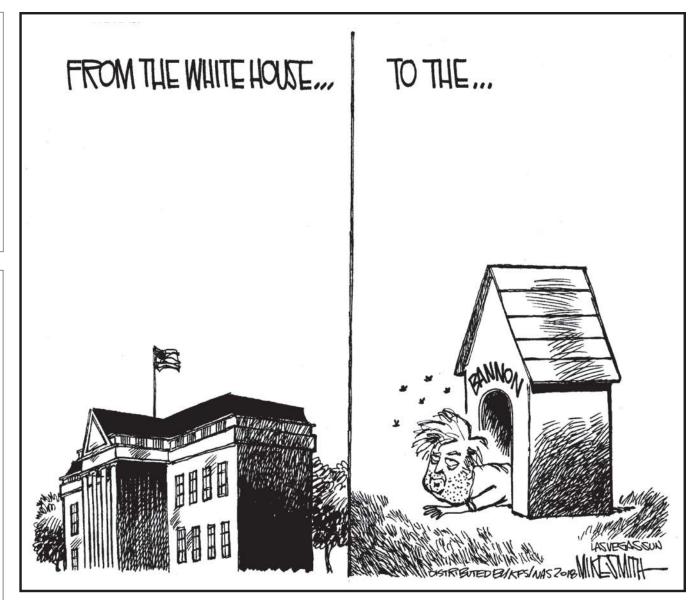
"We're getting calls from organizations from across the country wanting to duplicate our meetings," said Olivo. Because of the demand, Thursday's Women's Circle meeting will be on Facebook Live and shared with another women's organization in New York.

Winfrey rightly said at the Golden Globes that victims include "women whose names we'll never know. They are domestic workers and farm workers. They are working in factories and they work in restaurants."

Olivo saw the need for a platform for the women Winfrey spoke of. Until now, the center mainly fought to improve the working conditions and salaries of women with low-paying jobs, but she realized that the national debate about sexual harassment and abuse cuts deep with women who frequently carry the scars and burden of sexual abuse in silence

What are hotels and factories in South Florida doing to ensure a safe environment for women? In the past, orga-

See #METOO on Next Page



Trump doesn't understand what makes America truly great

am not a racist," Donald Trump found it necessary to reassure Americans. It was a revealing echo of when Richard Nixon told us, "I'm not a crook."

Trump's derogatory remarks about Haiti, El Salvador and African countries generally were extremely vulgar. Presidents are human; many have used vulgar phrases, although seldom so crudely. What's striking about Trump's insult is that it reveals how small and stunted his view of the world and of this country is. He simply doesn't understand what makes America great.

Trump sees the world through a keyhole, from behind a locked door embedded in a wall. Yet America's greatness has come from maintaining an open door—one that has allowed people and ideas to pass both in and out. America's values—liberty, equal justice under law, opportunity, freedom of speech and religion—were and are beacons to the world. Americans are forged from those values, not from one bloodline or one race or religion. Our values have attracted the energy and the hopes of peoples across the world. And the American example opened doors to Americans across the world. Where Trump sees threats, Americans historically have seen opportunities.

This country was not born in perfection. Slavery was its greatest scar. Our democracy initially was limited to white male landowners. It took a Civil War, our bloodiest war, to eliminate slavery. Waves of immigrants were often greeted harshly, segregated and scorned. It took a civil rights movement to end legal apartheid in this country.

What makes America great is that our most basic rights, enshrined in the Constitution, laid the basis for and gave legitimacy to the social movements that have been necessary to make America better. Freedom of religion protected us from religious wars. Freedom of speech and assembly and of the press helped keep government and business accountable, while giving citizens the possibility of driving fundamental reforms.

In his scorn for press freedom, his cancerous appeal to racial differences, Trump seems oblivious to this foundation of American greatness.

America was not always a good neighbor. Our expansion across the continent exacted a harsh and savage toll on Native Americans. We traduced our own values in supporting dictators and By JESSE JACKSON

Tribune News Service

You can write to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in care of this newspaper or by email at jjackson@rainbowpush.org. Follow him on Twitter @RevJJackson.



overthrowing democracies even in our own hemisphere. We were not a colonial power, but we continued a colonial war in Vietnam at great cost. For years, we saw the terrorist apartheid regime of South Africa as an ally and branded Nelson Mandela a terrorist.

What makes America great is that Americans objected to these violations of our basic values. An antiwar movement helped end the war in Vietnam. A movement in support of free South Africa helped end apartheid in that country. We may violate our values, but they retain their force. Trump, however, seems too often oblivious to the values that he is trampling.

America is a big country with an expansive vision, a country of many races, creeds and nationalities, a land of opportunity. We aspire to equal rights for all, yet we witness a growing and extreme inequality that threatens to undermine our democracy. Trump and his allies, as they lavish tax breaks on the already rich and empower multinationals to trample protections of consumers, workers and the environment, seem oblivious to how corrosive that is to the Republic.

Some worry about Trump becoming a dictator, but he seems less dictatorial than scared, less imperious than impulsive, less arrogant than insecure. His vision is too cribbed to make America bigger or better or more generous.

Leaders can choose. They can rise by appealing to our better angels, by offering hope or gain by rousing our demons, by peddling fear. This country and the world are now experiencing a political whiplash. We elected Barack Obama, a graceful president who sought to bring us together, arguing that there

See TRUMP on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immedi-

ately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Where are we now on the marine monument

By IGNACIO V. 'IKE' CABRERA SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

appy New Year to you and your *familias* near and far. In this new year's celebration, I ask that you keep the advancement of the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument goals foremost in your new year's resolutions and goals.

Jan. 6, 2018, marked the 9th anniversary of the declaration of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. For nine long years, you have stuck with me through the waiting and I am so very grateful for your support. Your support provides me with the inspiration to keep pushing forward.

In the spirit of our anniversary, below I offer you the timeline of outcomes and hurdles crossed. I apologize in advance because it is so long. I hope that you read it to the end.

During this time, many of you have signed petitions, written letters, shared things on Facebook, or maybe you just stayed engaged and followed along with developments. It continues to fall on us to pursue the FOMTM 2008 vision statement, which included specific cultural connections to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. These areas of consideration included: 1) management and enforcement, 2) culture and tradition, 3) conservation, 4) education, 5) research, and 6) economic development. We must continue to support our delegate's office and the governor in pursuing those things promised us almost 10 years ago now. Through your continued support and participation with the Friends, I believe that we can do this together.

- 2009: This was the year the monument was declared. Immediately it was evident that the monument we asked for was not the monument we received. Our community asked for a large, highly protected monument managed by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We were given a smaller monument, with fewer protections, managed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife. Several of us wrote to Kilili and requested that he transfer monument responsibilities to the National Marine Sanctuaries; to protect the marine ecosystems above the Mariana Trench, not just the rocks at the bottom; and to urge follow through on submerged lands transfer. Delegate Kilili also achieved one of his first legislative victories and the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources received a \$220,000 earmark for educational programs on marine sanctuaries
- management plan coming from the federal government, we again made requests for the sanctuary process. We separately asked for Kilili's earmark to be used to develop and design a visitor's center "...resulting in a workable, concrete architectural plan and plans for hands-on exhibits, an aquarium, areas for scientific presentations, and other community interaction." Our sanctuary request was denied a second time, and rather than begin a sanctuary process, the head of NOAA directed the NOAA Pacific Islands Regional office to explore ways to better develop a partnership with the CNMI government. Sadly, nothing came of this.
- 2011: The management plan was due on Jan. 6, 2011, according to the language in the monument declaration; however, U.S. Fish & Wildlife only published their first planning update on *developing* a management plan. For us, they appeared like students trying to submit their "planning update" on the day their semester project was due. We participated and helped, but were frustrated. Two years after the earmark was received, DLNR put out a request-for-proposal for visitor center design planning. I mention this so that we do not put all the blame on the federal government. Our local government has also dragged its feet. There are now NOAA and U.S. Fish & Wildlife staff being paid to work on the monument (and have been for some time), but they all live in Hawaii, not the Marianas.
- **2012:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife published its second management planning update with announcements for scoping meetings. There was still no management plan at the end of the fourth year.
 - **2013:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife published its third management

planning update with public comments, questions and their responses. Herman B. Cabrera and Associates completed a report on a visitor's center, identifying costs to rehabilitate the Navy Hill Lighthouse and recommended other locations for consideration. The plan went on a shelf and was never shared with the public (including up until the writing of this letter). Tens of thousands of dollars from the earmark were returned to the federal government unspent. Infighting between NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish & Wildlife staff seem to have held up publication of the management plan. Increasingly frustrated, Kilili wrote to NOAA to request that NOAA Sanctuaries take over management of the monument. That request was denied (the third denial from the federal government to start a sanctuary process). Kilili finally got a win for the CNMI when then Secretary Jewell signed the submerged lands patent, making it the first promise kept from the monument declaration's list of promises made by the federal government.

- **2014:** Three years after it was supposed to be finished, U.S. Fish & Wildlife published its fourth management planning update, which included a schedule for a visitor's center working group public listening session. This didn't really go anywhere that we know about.
- **2015:** We've nearly given up. Another year of no progress. Despite this, Kilili uncovered that NOAA spends \$3 million per year on Pacific monuments. None of this money is making its way to our community.
- beyond belief, Delegate Kilili and Gov. Torres jointly asked President Obama to begin the sanctuary process. NOAA Fisheries, led by Mike Tosatto in Hawaii, worked to block our local government officials' request. No additional information on the management plan came out from U.S. Fish & Wildlife. It finally hired a monument manager based out of Guam. At the end of the year, the White House told Kilili to submit a sanctuary proposal and they will consider it. We helped submit a proposal in December. This was when the CNMI and the federal government both signed a patent conveying submerged lands around the Islands Unit of the monument.
- g 2017: Over eight years, the Obama Administration ignored four requests from our community and our local government officials to begin the sanctuary process and failed to publish a monument management plan. Right up to the very last day we hoped that they would take some action. They did not. But in March 2017, the Sanctuary nomination was accepted to the National Marine Sanctuaries' inventory list. The next month, the Trump administration announced they were conducting a review of all large monuments declared in the last 20 years. We joined with Friends of Refuges groups nationwide in support of maintaining and bettering monuments.

The above is mostly a review of the progress of the management of the monument, or to be honest, the lack thereof. There have been other developments that have been very positive. James Cameron became only the third person ever to dive to the bottom of the Mariana Trench in 2012. And the level of research and discovery taking place in the trench these last few years has been unprecedented. Vessels from China, Japan, and the United States have had amazing new discoveries that are changing the way we understand our world.

Despite our frustrations with the monument, our community continues to want more ocean protections, not less. There have been numerous studies over the last 10 years that have taken place in our community showing that our people would like to see more marine protected areas—this despite our frustrations with the largest marine protected area in our islands.

We have worked hard to tell our story to the world. We worked with the NOAA Fisheries office to present an iPoster presentation on the monument at the 2016 IUCN World Congress in Hawaii (The International Union for Conservation of Nature). And I attended the Our Ocean conference in Washington, D.C., representing our community.

Globally we are receiving recognition for our natural wonders. Late last year the federal government successfully submitted their World Heritage site application for the Mariana Trench. The nomination was largely written by the late Richard Seman.

Nine years seems like a really long time and in some ways, it is. As processes like these go, maybe this was to be expected. However, the management plan is the keystone to any possible progress that we can hope for and it is long overdue to the people of the CNMI. Even now, six years after its due date, we are still waiting and it's always one thing or another; and we are told to be patient, that it is coming. I think we've been patient long enough. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife should publish the management plan so that we can all move on to next steps.

In all this time, the most frustrating part is that in the original FOMTM 2008 vision, National Marine Sanctuaries was ready to be our federal partner. If the Sanctuaries relationship had been established when the declaration was made, we would have had our visitor's center and so much more within the first three years of the monument. Instead, here we are. But even starting the sanctuary process now might be faster than waiting for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife to publish the management plan at this point. This is an easy remedy.

Together, we must keep fighting for our vision. We must remain alert to make sure that we see a management plan and provide support for our sanctuary nomination to move forward. I continue to remain in close contact with Delegate Kilili's office and support Gov.r Torres in making forward progress with both of these items. I look forward to you and your *familias*' continued support. If you have any interest in becoming more directly involved, please contact me at marianamonument@gmail.com. *Feliz a*ño *nuebo* and God bless.

TRUMP

From Page 10

were not blue states or red states, but a United States of America. And then, in reaction, Donald Trump was elected, railing against immigrants (even as immigration was declining) and Muslims, promising to build a wall, appealing to our fears.

When Dr. King helped build the civil rights movement in the apartheid South, he had a deep and abiding faith in America and in American values. He could endure beatings and insults and arrests because he had an unshakeable confidence that the freedom movement was appealing to the best of America. It is that confidence that will move people of conscience to organize the movement needed to make Donald Trump, who so fuels racial division that he must assert that he is not a racist, a relic of America's past, not the tribune of its future.

#METOO

From Page 10

nizations like the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association have shied away from discussing complaints of sexual harassment of housekeepers, saying their concern centered on housing and working conditions. In 2016, slate.com published an eye-opening story about the sexual harassment and abuse that local hotel housekeepers endure during the out-of-control excesses of Spring Break, and beyond: "Some guests make inappropriate requests, such as asking for an oil rub, or call for special service and then corner a housekeeper and try to touch her."

Wendy Kallergis, president and CEO of the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association, promises a different path—as well she should. She told the Editorial Board:

"Sexual harassment is completely unacceptable and should never be tolerated, whether in the workplace or otherwise. Many of our member hotels have policies and practices in place prohibiting and addressing this topic. We continue to support the efforts of our hotels and industry-related businesses to ensure that our employees are safe from sexual harassment. All employers have a responsibility to make the workplace a safe environment for their employees."

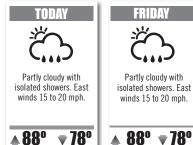
Good start. Now, what declaration of #TimesUp are other South Florida industries going to make?

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12 THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN





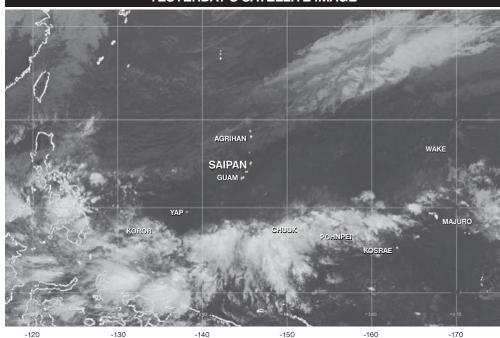


₹77°



▼77° **▲ 87º**

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:38 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The deep tropical moisture is south of the forecast zones and the shear line is to the north of them. This keeps us in the dry area between. Looked toward the whole period when wording the forecast this morning, so although there are some clouds right now, worded the forecast for sunny with no showers. Afterward, a return to more normal weather, partly cloudy with isolated showers. Still going to be fairly dry through the forecast period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°
	- 01 00-	
AROUND TH		_ ▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Rain	73° / 68°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 21°
Hong Kong	Showers	70° / 63°
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 72°
London	Showers	46° / 36°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Sunny	99° / 73°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 58°
New York	Sunny	39° / 27°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°
Paris	Showers	57° / 46°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°
Rome	Windy	61° / 37°
Salem	Sunny	47° / 24°
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 46°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 25°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Washington, DC	Sunny	44° / 25°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET									
2:36 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.28							
9:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86							
3:04 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13							
7:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84							

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:46 AM	6:07 PM	
Friday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	
Monday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:22 am	7:05 pm	-
Friday	8:06 am	7:54 pm	-
Saturday	aturday 8:49 am 8:44 pm		-
Sunday	9:30 am	9:34 pm	-
Monday	10:10 am	10:24 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

a

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA	(DOD)
SAIPAN-ROTA	(KOP)
o, ,	(

UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm

1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7

4:00am 7:05am

Daily

4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

7C3451

2:00am 6:05am Daily 07626 2:10am 6:00am 0Z626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7 7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily 7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

ID396 7-30am 12-00nm JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z626/701 2:10am 1 via ICN 10:55am 0Z626/701 2:50am 10:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 7 via GUM 4:15am 8:10am UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA6398/183 UA6398/193 6:05pm 11:50pm 2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077

1:50am 5:15am 0Z626/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN 0Z626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 5:45am 8:40am U043 1, 3, 5, 7 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/159 6:05pm 11:00pm

GUAM (C	GUM)-SAIF	PAN	
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP

12:10pm 12:45pm UA6390 2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

10:30am 3:05pm Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4 7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

9:30am 3:00pm 7C3402 Daily 7:40pm 1:00am+1 07625 TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily 0Z625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 11651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

ID395 8:25am 3:30nm 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7 JD395

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1,5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763 4:25pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/6395

3, 6 via GUM UA182/6395 12:40am 8:05am UA190/6397 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM 0Z702/625 12:25pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 12:25pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 1:40am+1 07702/625 PR110/UA6395 10:05pm 8:05am+1 Daily via GUM UA192/6395 10:30pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via ROR-GUM

10:55pm 8:05am+1

1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

1:15pm 1:00am+1 0Z722/625 7 via ICN 0Z722/625 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN HX076 12:15am+1 3, 7 5:15pm U042 1:45am+16:50pm U042 9:30pm 4:25am+12, 4, 6 UA116/6395 11:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

Daily

FREQUENCY

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR. INC.

					·	
SAIPAN T	O ROTA			1204 1205	10:00AM 11:00AM	10:15AM 11:15AM
FLIGHT # 1301 1302	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	1206 1207 1208	12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1200	3:00PM	3:15PM
ROTA TO	SAIPAN			1210	4:00PM	4:15PM
FLIGHT # 3101	DEPARTURE 8:15AM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM	FREQUENCY Daily	1211 1212	5:00PM 6:00PM	5:15PM 6:15PM
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	TINIAN T	O SAIPAN	
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
ROTA TO	GUAM			2102	7:30AM	7:45AM
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2103 2104 2105	8:30AM 9:30AM 10:30AM	8:45AM 9:45AM 10:45AM
GUAM TC	ROTA			2105	11:30AM	11:45AM
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2107 2108	12:30PM 1:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM
SAIPAN T	O TINIAN			2109	2:30PM 3:30PM	2:45PM 3:45PM
FLIGHT # 1201 1202 1203	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM 9:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM 9:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM

Exhibitors to join MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 25



Naomi Santos of the Marianas Visitors Authority shares about her job in product development and destination enhancement with students at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School on Nov. 2, 2017. The Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit will gather students to learn more about tourism on Jan. 25, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Under the theme "Live Your Culture, Love All Cultures," exhibitors are signing up to join the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Over 250 Public School

System's MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club students and chaperons are anticipated to attend the summit, which will feature a full lineup of on- and off-island speakers.

Providing hands-on demonstrations at breakout ses-

sions at the summit will be the cultural communities of the Federated States of Micronesia; Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji; and Hawaii, Tahiti, and Cook Islands.

Also scheduled to exhibit are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Micronesia Islands



Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Lynn Sablan, left, quizzes students about tourism at Admiral Hopwood Middle School on Nov. 7, 2017, as Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan GM Wendi Herring of hands out prizes. The Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit will gather students to learn more about tourism on Jan. 25, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Wendi Herring, general manager of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, talks about tourism with students at Admiral Hopwood Middle School on Nov. 7, 2017. The Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit will gather students to learn more about tourism on Jan. 25, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



All participants received a Saipan-da backpack at the presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council at Admiral Hopwood Middle School on Nov. 7, 2017,

Nature Alliance, Division of Coastal Resources Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

'What makes a destination unique? The sites, the people, and certainly, the culture," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "We sincerely appreciate the support of all our exhibitors and are confident they will have an interesting exchange of ideas on cultural with the MY WAVE students."

This year's keynote speaker will be Andrew Jones, Guardian of Sanctuary Resorts and the immediate past chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

The students will also hear from Gerard van Gils, the 2017 CNMI Teacher of the Year and 2017 Pacific Educator of the Year, and co-owner and managing director Gordon Marciano of tour company Pacific Development Inc.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is excited to again be partnering with MTEC on bringing together young people at this year's summit to share information with them,

hear their ideas, and generate enthusiasm about tourism," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "With this year's exceptional speakers, we aim to have them leave the summit proud of and excited about what their unique cultures can contribute to enhance the experience of visitors when they visit our multi-cultural home."

The summit is also sponsored by T Galleria, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. (MVA)

American Samoa 'opts in' to FirstNet network

American Samoa Gov. Lolo tor of Homeland Security, no cost to the state—or pursu-Matalasi Moliga has anbroadband network deployment plan offered by First-Net and AT&T, making American Samoa the second Pacific territory to "opt in" to the FirstNet system.

"In weighing this important decision to join FirstNet or deploy our own system, our team came to the conclusion that opting-in to FirstNet was the better solution for American Samoa and our first responders," Moliga said in a statement. "I wish to express my appreciation to the Direc-

Samana Veavea, and Com- ing the "opt-out" alternative, nounced that he has accepted missioner of Public Safety which would require the state the nationwide public-safety Le'i Sonny Thompson, and to be responsible for building their respective staffs, for their contributions to the making of this well-informed decision. We look forward to working with AT&T and the First Responder Network Authority to deploy this network."

Under the law that established FirstNet, governors in all 56 states and territories have the choice of making an "opt-in" decision—accepting the FirstNet deployment plan and allowing AT&T to build the LTE radio access network within the state's borders at and maintaining the the next 25 years.

Governors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands all announced "opt-in" decisions by their Dec. 28 deadline. With American Samoa announcement and Guam's "opt-in" announcement last week, the Northern Mariana Islands is the only U.S. territory that has not made an "optin/opt-out" decision yet.

Because they did not re-

ceive FirstNet deployment plans until December, the three Pacific territories have until March 12 to make their "opt-in/opt-out" decisions.

With their early "opt-in" decisions, American Samoa and Guam are expected to be included in the initial First-Net task order to build out the network. Although AT&T has been able to do engineering and preparatory work to deploy new FirstNet sites and begin operations on the 20 MHz of 700 MHz Band 14 spectrum, the carrier must receive a task order from FirstNet before installing infrastructure.

Public-safety agencies in "opt-in" states and territories are eligible to sign FirstNet contracts that give first responders preemptive access across AT&T's commercial networks immediately.

"Gov. Moliga's decision to join the First Responder Network Authority will deliver innovative tools and stateof-the-art technologies to the territory's fire, police and emergency medical services." FirstNet CEO Mike Poth said in a statement. "With First-Net, American Samoa's first responders will gain access to a reliable and redundant connection over the first-ever nationwide broadband network for public safety."

AT&T will build the First-Net RAN in "opt-in" states or territories at no cost to each

jurisdiction, although local public-safety entities will be responsible for paying subscription costs and end-user device expenses. However, the law that established First-Net stipulates that individual public-safety agencies and potential first-responder users are not required to subscribe to the FirstNet service.

"It's been a pleasure working with Gov. Moliga to bring FirstNet to American Samoa's first responders," Stephanie Tyler, president of AT&T Pacific Northwest, said in a prepared statement. "We're honored to serve public safety here on the island and across the United States." (http://urgentcomm.com/)

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Business

Airbus could abandon A380 superjumbo amid lackluster sales

PARIS (AP)—Airbus said Monday it will stop making the costly A380 superjumbo if it can't strike a long-term deal with the airline Emirates for a steady supply of the planes.

Abandoning the A380 would be a disappointing defeat for Airbus, which spent many years and many billions developing the double-decker behemoth, even as skeptics questioned whether it could generate enough demand to justify its cost and the bigger runways it requires.

Airbus chief salesman John Leahy told reporters Monday, when Airbus otherwise reported a record number of overall plane deliveries for 2017, that "if we can't work out a deal with Emirates, there is no choice but to shut down the program."

He said the Dubai-based airline is "the only one who has the ability" to commit to a minimum of six planes a year for a minimum of eight to 10 years, which Airbus needs to make the program viable.

Emirates, the governmentowned, Dubai-based longhaul carrier, declined to immediately comment.

The A380 drew worldwide attention when launched a decade ago but has always struggled to win enough customers. Airbus delivered just 15 of the planes last year, and aims to



deliver 12 more this year and could scale down production to six per year after that, CEO Fabrice Bregier said.

Emirates now relies solely on the Airbus 380 and the Boeing 777 for its flights, making it the largest operator

of both. It has over 160 Boeing 777s in its fleet today and took possession of its 100th A380

in November.

Reports circulated before the Dubai Air Show in No-

vember that a major A380 sale would be coming.

Instead, however, Airbus employees found themselves attending a news conference where Emirates announced the purchase of 40 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners in a \$15.1 billion deal. The air show ended without an A380 deal, throwing the line into question.

Monday's announcement came as Airbus said it sold 1,109 planes year, outstripping the 912 commercial planes sold by rival Boeing thanks to a raft of end-of-year deals, a growing global economy and travel demand.

The planemaker, based in Toulouse, France, reported Monday that it delivered 718 planes in 2017, fewer than Boeing's 763 but still a record for Airbus.

Bregier said Airbus will speed up production in the coming year, notably of its long-delayed widebody A350, and hopes to out-deliver Boeing by 2020.

Bregier, who's being replaced next month by Guilaume Faury as Airbus overhauls its top management, acknowledged "challenges" ahead but called them "manageable."

Airbus is facing multiple corruption investigations, notably in Britain, France and Austria.

China's GAC to scrap Trump-sounding brand for US market

DETROIT (AP)—Chinese automaker GAC Motor will scrap the brand name it uses in China when it enters the U.S. market next year because it could be confused with President Donald Trump's surname.

For the past eight years, GAC has sold cars and SUVs under the brand Trumpchi in its home market, but is now researching new names before the company's expected U.S. debut in the fourth quarter of 2019.

"We want to provide the best service for American customers, so we want to not be closely linked with politics," Wang Qiujing, GAC president, said through an interpreter in an interview at the Detroit auto show. "This is the reason we want to rename the brand."

GAC picked the Chinese name Trumpchi in 2010, well before Trump was elected. The similarity to Trump is just a coincidence, Wang added. GAC will continue to use Trumpchi in China, where the word means legend and good fortune.

GAC's first vehicle in the U.S. will be the GS8, a load-ed-out full-size SUV that will cost about \$35,000. Two more vehicles are being researched

for U.S. sales, but have not been selected yet.

The company showed seven different of its models on a video and unveiled two more at the Detroit show. One is a gullwing compact electric SUV called the Enverge, which is still in the concept phase. The automaker says it will go over 370 miles on a single charge. Also unveiled was the GA4 midsize sedan that will go on sale in China later this month.

The GS8 would be comparable to a big luxury SUV, many of which go for more than \$60,000. Wang said he didn't know what the brand's lowest-price vehicle would be in the U.S.

GAC sold just over 500,000 automobiles in China last year, up 37 percent from 2016.

The company says it is negotiating with partner Fiat Chrysler about possible distribution of vehicles. Wang said GAC is the top-ranked domestic brand for initial quality in China in J.D.Power and Associates surveys, and it ranks fourth or fifth when joint ventures with foreign automakers are included. He says the company's vehicle quality will be ready for U.S.

buyers, and it will work with U.S. partners to meet stricter U.S. safety standards.

Chinese automakers are advanced and have expertise in mass production but the American market may not be ready yet to accept GAC, said Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports' director of auto testing.

Other Chinese companies showed vehicles at the CES gadget show in Las Vegas last week such as Byton, which unveiled an electric prototype that's like a Tesla Model X SUV but costs thousands less, Fisher said.

"There will be Chinese automakers at the top of the market and at the bottom of the market, and it will be very interesting to see how they are received," he said.

GAC already has a research center in Silicon Valley and is working on another one in Detroit, as well as a Los Angeles design center. Initially it will import vehicles from China but depending on sales, plans to build a factory in the U.S.

GAC, which stands for Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., also plans to enter other global markets after the U.S., including Europe.

& BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lego plans video games, social network for Chinese children

LONDON (AP)—Toy maker Lego is partnering with China's internet firm Tencent to offer games, video and possibly a social network aimed at children. The privately-owned company based in Copenhagen, Denmark, said Monday that the deal would combine Lego's ability to create content with Tencent's distribution reach. 'We've seen more and more Chinese children engage with the world digitally, and the partnership will bring them safe and imaginative Lego content" said Iacob Kragh general manager of Lego China. Shenzhen-based Tencent is one of China's most powerful internet companies, running the WeChat messaging app as well as online payment platforms and games. Because Chinese authorities have largely shut out Western companies like Google and Facebook, homegrown internet companies like Tencent have been able to grow rapidly in size. For Lego, the move is part of a reorganization of its business that it began last year, when it announced it was shedding 1,400 jobs, or 8 percent of its workforce.

Lifelike robots made in Hong Kong meant to win over humans

HONG KONG (AP)—David Hanson envisions a future in which AI-powered robots evolve to become "superintelligent genius machines" that might help solve some of mankind's most challenging problems. The Texasborn former sculptor at Walt Disney Imagineering and his Hong Kong-based startup Hanson Robotics are combining artificial intelligence with southern China's expertise in toy design, electronics and manufacturing to craft humanoid "social robots" with faces designed to be lifelike and appealing enough to win trust from humans who interact with them. Hanson, 49, is perhaps best known as the creator of Sophia. A talk show-going robot partly modeled on Audrey Hepburn that he calls his "masterpiece." Akin to an animated mannequin, she seems as much

a product of his background in theatrics as an example of advanced technology.

FCA's Marchionne says new CEO will be named this year

DETROIT (AP)—Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne says he'll step down next year after leading the combined company since 2009. Marchionne, 65, told media at the Detroit auto show that FCA will release a business plan through 2022 around June. The company will announce his successor sometime after that. Candidates include Mike Manley, who leads the company's Ram and Jeep brands, and Reid Bigland, who leads the Alfa Romeo and Maserati brands and U.S. sales. Marchionne also said the U.S. tax cuts passed in December are worth \$1 billion annually to FCA and give the company confidence about the economic future. FCA said last week it was moving heavy duty truck production from Mexico to Michigan and paying \$2,000 bonuses to U.S. employees as a result of the tax cuts.

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Nation

King children criticize Trump, decry racism on MLK holiday

ATLANTA (AP)—Two of Martin Luther King Jr.'s children and the pastor of his historic Atlanta church marked the national King holiday Monday with sharp denunciations of President Donald Trump, focusing on disparaging remarks he is said to have made about African countries and Haitian immigrants. Angry pro-Haiti protesters and Trump supporters yelled at each other from opposite sides of a street near the president's Florida resort.

At gatherings across the nation, activists, residents and teachers honored the late civil rights leader on what would have been his 89th birthday and ahead of the 50th anniversary of his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. But in the many speeches delivered from pulpits and podiums across the country, Trump's name came up nearly as often as King's, with speakers indicating that his turbulent presidency was undermining efforts to ease racial tensions in the U.S.

The president spent his first Martin Luther King Jr. Day in office buffeted by



claims that during a meeting with senators on immigration last week, he used a vulgarity to describe African countries and questioned the need to allow more Haitians into the U.S. He also is said to have asked why the country couldn't have more immigrants from nations like Norway.

In Washington, King's eldest son, Martin Luther King III, criticized Trump, saying, "When a president insists that our nation needs more citizens from white states like Norway, I don't even think we need to spend any time even talking about what it says and what it is."

He added, "We got to find a way to work on this man's heart." In Atlanta, King's daugh-

Haiti and, in the process, un-

service that his predecessor

staged in honor of the civil

rights leader. Instead Trump

dedicated his weekly address

to King's memory, saying

King's dream and America's

are the same: "a world where

people are judged by who

they are, not how they look or

That message was a distinct

counterpoint to words attrib-

uted to Trump by Durbin and

where they come from."

ter, the Rev. Bernice King, told hundreds of people who packed the pews of the Ebenezer Baptist Church that they "cannot allow the nations of the world to embrace the words that come from our president as a reflection of the true spirit of America."

"We are one people, one nation, one blood, one destiny. ... All of civilization and humanity originated from the soils of Africa," Bernice King said. "Our collective voice in this hour must always be louder than the one who sometimes

does not reflect the legacy of my father."

Church pastor the Rev. Raphael Warnock also took issue with Trump's campaign slogan to "Make America Great Again."

Warnock said he thinks America "is already great ... in large measure because of Africa and African people."

Down the street from Trump's Mar-a-Lago retreat in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday, Haitian protesters and Trump supporters yelled at each other from opposing corners. Trump was staying at Martin Luther King III, right, with his wife Arndrea Waters, left, and their daughter Yolanda, 9, center, during their visit to the Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

the resort for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Video posted by WPEC-TV showed several hundred pro-Haiti demonstrators yelling from one side of the street Monday while waving Haitian flags. The Haitians and their supporters shouted "Our country is not a shithole," referring to comments the president reportedly made. Trump has said that is not the language he used.

The smaller pro-Trump contingent waved American flags and campaign posters and yelled "Trump is making America great again." One man could be seen telling the Haitians to leave the country. Police kept the sides apart.

Trump dedicated his weekly address to the nation, released Monday, to King.

"Dr. King's dream is our dream, it is the American dream, it's the promise stitched into the fabric of our nation, etched into the hearts of our people and written into the soul of humankind," he said in the address, which he tweeted to his followers. "It is the dream of a world where people are judged by who they are, not how they look or where they come from."

Future floods will be in mind as California town rebuilds

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP)—After power and drinking water return, and cleanup crews haul away the last of the boulders and muck that splintered homes like a battering ram, the wealthy seaside hideaway of Montecito, California, will start rebuilding with the possibility of another catastrophic flood in mind.

Though parts of the town of about 9,000 were spared, the debris flows leveled entire blocks as they killed at least 20 people last week. Sewer lines were ruptured, fire hydrants sheared off, power lines downed.

While an aggressive cleanup could mean Montecito will welcome visitors again in weeks, the rebuilding of infrastructure and hundreds of homes will be measured in months and years. It offers a chance to reimagine aspects of a town that has favored slow growth over the runaway development closer to Los Angeles, 90 miles (145 kilometers) down the coast.

Telephone and electrical lines could be moved from poles to underground conduits. A micro-grid for solar power would increase selfsufficiency.

Also looming are questions about how to protect the town against future disaster. Is it time to install culverts and storm drains to siphon floods like other Southern California cities have built? Or to require that properties capture storm water for future use rather than let it cascade to the Pacific Ocean?

"Unfortunately, it takes a tragedy like this to have an opportunity," said Sheldon Yellen, CEO of disaster recovery firm Belfor Property Restoration. "You can pretty well bet that they will all be looking at every way possible."

More ambitious proposals would run up against twin realities: Major infrastructure costs major money, and Montecito has traditionally favored a natural aesthetic to maintain its character. What's more, the flows roughly tracked creeks that cut from the mountains to the ocean, and those creeks are typically on private property.

Even in high-cost coastal California, the unincorporated community stands apart. A home is far more likely to sell for over \$10 million than under \$1 million. It sits on the "American Riviera," an area around Santa Barbara known for its Mediterranean climate and architecture reflecting its Spanish colonial past.

Trump goes after the Dem who surfaced his immigration remark WEST PALM BEACH, others at a meeting last week, Fla. (AP)—President Donald when the question of where Trump turned his Twitter torimmigrants come from seemed ment Monday on the Demoat the forefront of Trump's concrat in the room where immicerns. Some participants and others familiar with the convergration talks with lawmakers took a famously coarse turn, sation said Trump challenged saying Sen. Dick Durbin misimmigration from "shithole" represented what he had said countries of Africa and disparaged Haiti as well. about African nations and

dermined the trust needed to using that word, Trump lashed make a deal. out at the Democratic senator, On a day of remembrance who said Trump uttered it on for Rev. Martin Luther King several occasions. Jr., Trump spent time at his "Senator Dicky Durbin totally golf course with no public events, bypassing the acts of

misrepresented what was said at the DACA meeting," Trump tweeted, using a nickname to needle the Illinois senator. "Deals can't get made when there is no trust! Durbin blew DACA and is hurting our Military."

Without explicitly denying

He was referring to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which protects young people who came to the U.S. illegally as children. Members of Congress from both parties are trying to strike a deal that Trump would support to extend that protection. Durbin said Monday the

White House should release whatever recording it might have of the meeting.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of the six senators in the meeting with Trump on Thursday, supported Durbin's account.

As well, Durbin and people who were briefed on the conversation but were not authorized to describe it publicly said Trump also questioned the need to admit more Haitians. They said Trump expressed a preference for immigrants from countries like Norway, which is overwhelmingly white.

Republican Sens. David Perdue of Georgia and Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who also attended, initially said they did not hear Trump utter the word in question, then revised their account to deny he said it at all.

There is some internal West Wing debate whether Trump said "shithole" or "shithouse."

One person who attended the meeting told aides they heard the latter expletive, while others recall the president saying the more widely reported "shithole," according to a person briefed on the meeting but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

The person believes the discrepancy may be why some Republican senators are denying having heard the president say "shithouse."

Trump has not clarified to aides what he said. The White House has not denied that Trump used a vulgar term, and there appears to be little difference in meaning between the two words.

The reverberations kept coming Monday.

Martin Luther King III, King's elder son, said: "When a president insists that our nation needs more citizens from white states like Norway, I don't even think we need to spend any time even talking about what it says and what it is."

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Asia

Myanmar says 1st camp for Rohingya will be ready next week

BANGKOK (AP)—A top Myanmar official said Monday that a camp to house Rohingya Muslim and Hindu refugees who return from Bangladesh will be ready by its promised deadline next week.

More than 650,000 ethnic Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh since Myanmar's military launched a brutal crackdown in August following attacks on police posts by a militant group. Though Myanmar's army claimed it was a clearance operation against the terrorists, the United Nations, United States and others have said the operations were "ethnic cleansing" to remove the Rohingya from the country.

Myanmar and Bangladesh signed an agreement in November to repatriate Rohingya and set up a working group last month to oversee the repatriation of people who had fled violence in the northern part of Rakhine state in western Myanmar

Win Myat Aye, the minister of social welfare, relief and resettlement, said Myanmar was hosting a one-day meeting Monday with Bangladesh officials in the capital Naypy-



itaw to discuss the logistics of how many Rohingya will be allowed into Myanmar and how they will be scrutinized to be placed in the camps.

Officials plan to start the repatriation process from Jan.

"We are planning ahead to be able accept the returnees

"Surveillance and assessment by authorities is critical

potential environmental impact and for deciding on the appropriate next steps in terms of salvage and recovery of the potential condensate spill," Johnston wrote in a Green-

oil spills, Greenpeace said.

operations," Greenpeace said.

Authorities and environmentalists have said it's too early to know the impact on fisheries, although Greenpeace said the area is spawning ground for bluefin leatherjacket and swordtip squid and the winter habitat of blue crab, chub mackerel and yelfrom next week and we are sure that this will be done on time," Win Myat Aye said.

The U.N. refugee agency said it is not involved in the process but is willing to play a "constructive role" in the process if allowed, specifically in registering the refu-

ASIAN BRIEFS

LEGAZPI,

Glowing red lava

rolls down slopes of

(AP)—Glowing red lava

rolled down the slopes of

a Philippine volcano Tues-

day morning as authorities

maintained a warning of a

possible hazardous eruption.

The lava was quietly flowing

in some places but at times

Mount Mayon was erupting

like a fountain, the Philippine

Institute of Volcanology and

Seismology said. Lava had

advanced up to 2 kilometers

(1.24 miles) from the crater,

and ash reached up to 2 ki-

lometers and fell on nearby

communities. Nearly 15,000

people have fled the danger

zone within 6 to 7 kilometers

of Mayon, and the institute

strongly advised people not

to re-enter the area. Several

small pyroclastic flows were

generated by fragments in

the lava streams and not by

an explosion from the cra-

ter vent, like occurred with

Mount Pinatubo, said Re-

nato Solidum, who heads the

volcano institute. Pyroclastic

flows are superheated gas and

Philippines

Philippine volcano

gees and helping determining whether they are returning to Myanmar voluntarily.

"Our involvement in the process and our full access to areas of return in Myanmar can help to build confidence for all concerned, including the refugees," said Vivian Tan, A Rohingya Muslim boy stands in a queue outside a food distribution center at Balukhali refugee camp 50 kilometres (32 miles) from, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

UNHCR's senior regional communication officer.

In the November agreement, Myanmar's civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, pledged to take measures to halt the outflow of Rohingya to Bangladesh and restore normalcy in the region. The U.N and rights groups have urged the Myanmar government to ensure the safe and voluntary return of the Rohingya refugees.

Many have questioned whether Rohingya would return to Myanmar under the current circumstances.

Japan's foreign minister on a visit to Myanmar last week urged Suu Kyi's government to guarantee the safe and voluntary return of the refugees.

State-run media in Myanmar reported Monday the 124-acre Hla Po Khaung camp will accommodate about 30,000 people in 625 buildings and that at least 100 buildings are to be completed by the end of the month. It would be the first camp built in the repatriation process.

Oil spill from sunken tanker is expanding in East China Sea

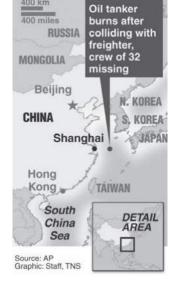
BEIJING (AP)—Several oil slicks have been found in waters around a sunken Iranian tanker ship in the East China Sea in a spill that is growing and whose potentially major impact on the marine environment is still being assessed.

The State Oceanic Administration said late Monday oil slicks around the site of the sunken ship were much larger than the previous day. The Sanchi sunk on Sunday after burning for more than a week following a collision with a Hong Kong-registered tanker. All 32 members of its crew— 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis—are believed dead.

The State Oceanic Administration said a 15-kilometer (9-mile)-long oil slick was found southwest of the site of the sinking and another slick stretched 18 kilometers (11 miles) to the east. The site is about 530 kilometers (330 miles) from Shanghai and 310 kilometers (193 miles) from Naha, Japan.

The administration said two ships and an aircraft were on the scene monitoring developments, but described no further action being taken at present.

The ship was carrying natural gas condensate, which continued to burn on the ocean surface. Condensate is highly



toxic but readily evaporates or burns off in a fire. If trapped underwater, however, it could seriously harm the marine environment.

The cause of the Jan. 6 collision between the Sanchi and the Chinese freighter CF Crystal, which was carrying grain, remains unclear. The ship's voice data recorder was reportedly recovered Saturday, possibly helping reveal how the collision and resulting fire occurred.

Authorities need to first assess the amount of condensate leaked and the size of the area contaminated, said Paul Johnston, of Greenpeace International's Science Unit at Britain's University of Exeter.

to understand the extent of the peace news release.

Because most of the condensate would have burned off or evaporated, the disaster will not result in the sort of thick, black oil slick typical of crude

However, it will be much more difficult to separate from water because the condensate is so light, colorless and partially soluble. "A major concern is that, now that the tanker has sunk, any condensate which did not yet burn off could continue to leak underwater, disperse and break down quite quickly, significantly complicating clean-up

low croaker.

volcanic debris that can race down slopes and incinerate everything in their path, and are feared in a major eruption. "The pyroclastic flows, there were several, were not generated by an explosion from the crater with lava, molten rocks and steam, shooting up the volcano then rolling down," Solidum said. "These were generated by lava fragments breaking off from the lava

Aussie dad with a hunch hired copter

flow in the upper slopes."

that found injured son **SYDNEY** (AP)—The father of a teenager who spent 30 hours trapped in a car wreck in Australian woods says he followed his intuition by hiring the helicopter that found his seriously injured son. Samuel Lethbridge remains in a hospital in serious condition with multiple fractures on Tuesday following the crash on Sunday. His father, Tony Lethbridge, told Seven Network television he suspected his 17-year-old son may have been in a car wreck when he did not return by Sunday night to the family home at Lake Macquarie, north of Sydney. The father says he hired a helicopter on Monday morning and the car was spotted in scrub off a highway 20 kilometers (12 miles) from home. The family did not reveal how much hiring the helicopter had cost.

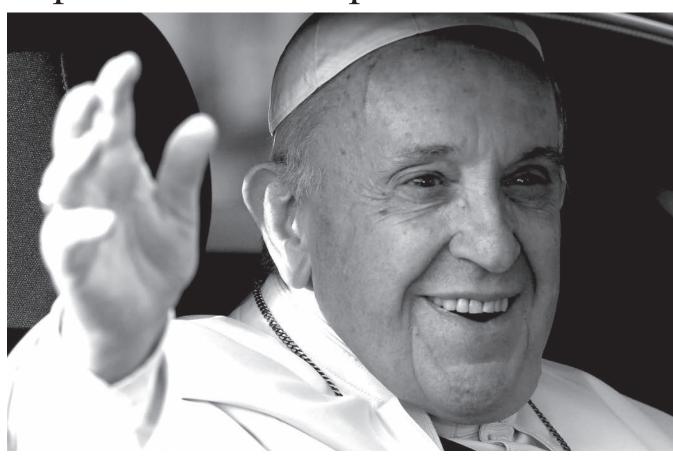
Militants kill 6 troops in southwestern **Pakistan**

OUETTA. Pakistan officials (AP)—Pakistani say militants opened fire on a paramilitary convoy in the country's southwest, killing at least six troops and wounding four others. Abdul Qadus Bizenjo, the top elected official in the Baluchistan province, says Monday's attack took place in the town of Turbat, about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) south of the provincial capital, Quetta. No one immediately claimed the attack. Baluchistan is home to a low-level insurgency by separatists and tribes that want greater local autonomy. Islamic militants have also carried out attacks there.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 17

World

Pope Francis under pressure to confront sex abuse in Chile



Pope Francis waves as he arrives at the San Luis Beltran church on his way to the Apostolic Nunciature in Santiago, Chile, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Pope Francis will be under pressure Tuesday to confront a priest sex abuse scandal during his first full day in Chile, an Andean nation where the majority identifies as Roman Catholic but strong currents of skepticism and even contempt for the church are increasingly present.

Many Chileans are still furious over his 2015 decision to appoint a bishop close to the Rev. Fernando Karadima, a priest found guilty by the Vatican in 2011 of abusing dozens of minors over decades.

Bishop Juan Barros of the southern city of Osorno has always denied he knew what Karadima was doing when he was the priest's protege, but many Chileans have a hard time believing that.

"Sex abuse is Pope Francis' weakest spot in terms of his credibility," said Massimo Faggioli, a Vatican expert and theology professor

at Villanova University in Philadelphia. "It is surprising that the pope and his entourage don't understand that they need to be more forthcoming on this issue."

The Karadima scandal and a long cover-up has caused a crisis for the church in Chile, with a recent Latinbarometro survey saying the case was responsible for a significant drop in the number of Chileans who call themselves Catholic as well as a fall in confidence in the church as an institution.

That distrust extends to Francis, who is making his first visit as pope to this country of 17 million people. The Argentine pope is nearly a native son, having studied in Chile during his Jesuit novitiate and he knows the country well, but Chileans give him the lowest approval rating among the 18 Latin American nations in the survey.

"People are leaving the church because they don't find

a protective space there," said Juan Carlos Claret, spokesman for a group of church members in Osorno that has opposed Barros' appointment as bishop. "The pastors are eating the flock."

People angry over Barros planned a protest for Tuesday, when Francis is scheduled to celebrate Mass, meet with President Michelle Bachelet and visit a female prison.

But other groups also called demonstrations against the pontiff.

Victor Hugo Robles, an activist in Chile's lesbian and gay community, said the Vatican tries to paint an image of the pope as being close to the people, particularly those with the most needs.

"We are the ones who need help," said Robles. "Gay people, people living with AIDS. When it comes to those things, the church has an attitude of intolerance, of disgust."

Felipe Morales, from a group called the Workers' So-

cialist Front, said many were unhappy with the pope and the church's historical influence in Chile. They planned to protest outside while Francis celebrated Mass.

"The role of the church has been nefarious," said Morales. "Sex abuse cases have been covered up and people are unhappy with many other issues."

To be sure, many will be excited to see the pope. Thousands lined the streets of Santiago to get a glimpse of Francis after he arrived Monday night, though the crowds were notably thin compared to previous visits to other Latin American capitals.

"It was amazing to see him," said Luis Salazar, a young boy who came out with his family to see Francis pass by in his pope mobile.

The pope will try to inject new energy into the church during his visit, which starts off Tuesday with a series of protocol visits for church and state.

Twin bombings in Baghdad kill 38, shatter post-IS calm

BAGHDAD (AP)—Twin suicide bombings rocked Baghdad on Monday, killing 38 people in the deadliest attack since Iraq declared victory over the Islamic State group last month, and raising fears ahead of national elections planned for May.

The bombers targeted the bustling Tayran Square, in the heart of the capital, setting off their explosive vests among laborers and street vendors during the morning rush hour. More than 100 people were wounded, according to police and hospital officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

No one has claimed the attacks, but they bore the hall-marks of IS.

Iraqi forces have driven IS from all the territory the extremists once held, but the militant group has proven resilient in the past and is likely to continue carrying out insurgent-style attacks. That could undermine Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who hopes to extend the country's newfound sense of pride and unity in order to lead a diverse coalition to power in May.

Ambulances rushed to the scene as security forces sealed off the area with yellow tape. Slippers could be seen scattered about on the bloodstained pavement as cleaners hurried to clear the debris.

"It was a tremendous, I felt the ground shaking under my feet," said Munthir Falah, a secondhand clothes vendor whose chest and right leg were pierced by shrapnel. He said he fell to the ground and lost consciousness before later waking up in a hospital.

The father of three said government forces had failed to secure the capital. "They think that Daesh is done," he said, referring to IS by an Arabic acronym. "They don't bother themselves to exert efforts to secure Baghdad."

Einas Khalil, a Baghdad housewife, blamed the security breakdown on the country's feuding politicians, many of whom are connected to different state-sanctioned militias or branches of the security forces.

"We were expecting this because of the upcoming elections," she said. "Every four years we have to live through this suffering because of political differences and disagreements."

Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri denounced the attack as a "cowardly act against innocent people" and called on the government to take all necessary security measures. Al-Abadi met security officials in charge of Baghdad, ordering them to root out militant sleeper cells, according to a brief statement issued by his office.

Across the Mideast, Palestinians brace for Trump aid cuts

SHATI REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip (AP)—Mahmoud al-Qouqa can't imagine life without the three sacks of flour, cooking oil and other staples he receives from the United Nations every three months.

Living with 25 relatives in a crowded home in this teeming Gaza Strip slum, the meager rations provided by UNRWA, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugee families, are the last thing keeping his family afloat in the territory hard hit by years of poverty and conflict. But that could be in danger as the U.S., UNRWA's biggest donor, threatens to curtail funding.

"It will be like a disaster and no one can predict what the reaction will be," al-Qouqa said.

Across the Middle East, millions of people who depend on UNRWA are bracing for the worst. The expected cut could also add instability to struggling host countries already coping with spillover from other regional crises.

UNRWA was established in the wake of the 1948 Mideast war surrounding Israel's creation. An estimated 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes in the fighting.

In the absence of a solution for these refugees, the U.N. General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, the original refugee camps have turned into concrete slums and more than 5 million refugees and their descendants now rely on the agency for services including education, health care and food. The largest populations are in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon.

Seen by the Palestinians and most of the international community as providing a valuable safety net, UNRWA is viewed far differently by Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accuses the agency of perpetuating the conflict by helping promote an unrealistic dream that these people have the "right of return" to long-lost properties in what is now Israel.

"UNRWA is part of the problem, not part of the solution," he told foreign journalists last week. Noting that the Palestinians are the only group served by a specific refugee agency, he said UNRWA should be abolished and its responsibilities taken over by the main U.N. refugee agency.

Some in Israel have even tougher criticism, accusing UNRWA of teaching hatred of Israel in its classrooms and tolerating or assisting Hamas militants in Gaza.

Blaming the Palestinians for lack of progress in Mideast peace efforts, President Donald Trump has threatened to cut American assistance to the Palestinians. UNRWA would be the first to be affected.

The U.S. provides about \$355 million a year to UNRWA, roughly one-third of its budget.

U.S. officials in Washington

said this week the administration is preparing to withhold tens of millions of dollars from the year's first contribution, cutting a planned \$125 million installment by half or perhaps entirely. The decision could come as early as Tuesday.

Matthias Schmale, UNRWA's director in Gaza, said Washington has not informed the agency of any changes. However, "we are worried because of the statements ... in the media and the fact that the money hasn't arrived yet," he said.

Schmale dismissed the Israeli criticisms, saying that individuals who spread incitement or aid militants are isolated cases and promptly punished. And he said Netanyahu's criticism should be directed at the U.N. General Assembly, which sets UNRWA's mandate, not the agency itself.

Any cut in U.S. aid could ripple across the region with potentially unintended consequences.

18 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



This Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, photo provided by Jhune Liwanag shows a highway median sign broadcasting a message of "There is no threat" in Kaneohe, Hawaii. State emergency officials mistakenly sent out an emergency alert warning of an imminent missile strike, sending islanders into a panic.

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and BRIAN MELLEY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ONOLULU

(AP)—When

Jonathan Scheuer
got an alert on his
phone of a ballistic missile headed
for Hawaii, he and
his family didn't
know what to do.

They went to their guest bedroom, then decided it would
be safer on the ground floor of
their Honolulu home.

"What do we do?" he wondered. "Where do we go?"

People should immediately seek shelter in a building "or other substantial structure," once an attack-warning siren sounds, according to guidance the state distributed previously. The state recommends having 14-day survival kit of food and water.

Residents and tourists alike remained rattled after the mistaken alert was blasted out to cellphones across the islands with a warning to seek immediate shelter and the ominous statement: "This is not a drill."

"Clearly there is a massive gap between letting people know something's coming and having something for them to do," Scheuer said Sunday. "Nobody knew what to do."

Lisa Foxen, a social worker and mother of two young children in east Honolulu, said the best thing to come out of the scare was that it pushed her family to come up with a plan if there is a real threat.

"I kind of was just almost like a deer in headlights," she said. "I knew what to do in a hurricane. I knew what to do in an earthquake. But the missile thing is new to me."

The blunder that caused more than a million people in Hawaii to fear that they were about to be struck by a nuclear missile fed skepticism about the government's ability to keep them informed in a real emergency.

"My confidence in our so-called leaders' ability to disseminate this vital information has certainly been tarnished," said Patrick Day, who sprang from bed when the alert was issued Saturday morning. "I would have to think twice before acting on any future advisory."

The erroneous warning was sent during a shift change at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

when someone doing a routine test hit the live alert button, state officials said.

That employee has been reassigned to a job without access to the warning system amid an internal investigation, agency spokesman Richard Rapoza said Monday. No other personnel changes have been made, he said.

Officials tried to assure residents there would be no repeat false alarms. The agency changed protocols to require that two people send an alert and made it easier to cancel a false alarm—a process that took nearly 40 minutes.

The error sparked a doomsday panic across the islands known as a laid-back paradise. Parents clutched their children, huddled in bathtubs and said prayers. Students bolted across the University of Hawaii campus to take cover in buildings. Drivers abandoned cars on a highway and took shelter in a tunnel. Others resigned themselves to a fate they could not control and simply waited for the attack.

The 911 system for the island of Oahu was overwhelmed with more than 5,000 calls. There were no major emergencies during

the false alarm, Mayor Kirk Caldwell said.

President Donald Trump said Sunday the federal government will "get involved," but didn't release details.

An investigation into what went wrong was underway at the Federal Communications Commission, which sets rules for wireless emergency alerts sent by local, state or federal officials to warn of the threat of hurricanes, wildfires, flash flooding and to announce searches for missing children.

The state of Hawaii "did not have reasonable safeguards or process controls in place to prevent the transmission of a false alert," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement, calling the mistake "absolutely unacceptable."

"False alerts undermine public confidence in the alerting system and thus reduce their effectiveness during real emergencies," he said.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urged Americans not to lose faith in their government.

"I would hate for anybody not to abide by alerts and warnings coming from government systems," Nielsen said on "Fox News Sunday." "They can trust government systems. We test them every day. This is a very unfortunate mistake, but these alerts are vital. Seconds and minutes can save lives."

With mobile phones ubiquitous, wireless alerts can quickly disseminate information to a wide number of users, but there have been concerns about creating a panic if they are sent too broadly.

Authorities were criticized for not sending an alert to mobile phones when fires ripped through Northern California in October, killing 40 people. Officials had decided not to use the system because they couldn't target them precisely enough and feared a wider broadcast would lead to mass evacuations, including people not in danger, snarling traffic that would hamper firefighting and rescues efforts.

Saturday's mistake was not the first for the state's warning system. During a test last month, 12 of the state's 386 sirens played an ambulance siren. In the tourist hub of Waikiki, the sirens were barely audible, prompting officials to add more sirens and reposition ones already in place.

People need to step back

from questioning who pushed the button and why and focus on military de-escalation, Scheuer said.

The false alarm triggered a broader discussion about national security at a time when North Korea has been flexing its muscles by launching test missiles and bragging about its nuclear capability. Its leader, Kim Jong Un, has also exchanged insults on Twitter with President Donald Trump about their arsenals.

The standoff has whipped up nuclear fears on Hawaii and led the islands to revive Cold War-era siren tests that drew international attention.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Hawaii Democrat, said officials should be held accountable for the "epic failure of leadership" behind the warning. She said the nuclear threat underscored the need for Trump to meet with Kim to work out differences without preconditions.

"The people of Hawaii are paying the price now for decades of failed leadership in this country" by setting "unrealistic preconditions," she said. "The leaders of this country need to experience that same visceral understanding of how lives are at stake."

Good Housekeeping

Florida Sunshine, gold lantern to the woodland garden

By NORMAN WINTER

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If the frigid winter has you crying for some Florida sunshine, vou are not alone. In the past few months, I have moved to Hamilton, Ga., and have been furiously planting hollies, camellias, conifers, and a few other select evergreens to start giving the bones to my new landscape. After days on end of high teens and low 20s, I couldn't be happier with Florida Sunshine a selection of the native Illicium parviflorum that was introduced by Plant Delights Nursery.

The shrub will reach 7 feet tall and 8 feet wide. The species has been known to reach close to 12 feet. Florida Sunshine was like brightly lit lanterns in the Shade Garden at the Costal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, and now in the hills (mountains to me) of Hamilton, Ga., they are just as dazzling.

Just imagine standing high on a deck and looking to the forest below and seeing accents of bright yellow gold to chartreuse colored foliage standing out amongst darker evergreens. Whether paired with hollies, azaleas, or camellias, Florida Sunshine will make them look better.

As I strolled down the hill to see how they were faring in the cold winter, I did notice the upper stems had taken on a red hue that adds another winning trait to this must-have plant. This species of anise comes from moist areas of Florida and Georgia but will look quite at home in woodland areas throughout zones 6-9. Florida Sunshine will also look striking as a hedge and will make a show as a thriller plant in a mixed container.



Florida Sunshine anise can reach 8 feet tall and as wide and is like a golden lantern in the woodland garden.

Place your Florida Sunshine in partial shade to shade; they abhor full sun. Prepare the soil by incorporating 3 to 4 inches of organic matter, and two pounds of a 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 square feet of planting area, tilling deeply.

Dig the planting hole two to three times as wide as the rootball but no deeper. When you dig these large holes, you are opening the door to the fastest root expansion and establishment in your bed. Place the plant in the hole and backfill with soil to two-thirds the

depth. Tamp the soil and water to settle, add the remaining backfill, repeat the process and apply mulch.

Keep in mind they have the potential of reaching 6 to 10 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide. Prune lightly anytime to shape and keep bushy. During the first year use a regular water regimen and water deeply training the roots to go deep. Light watering trains the roots to establish at a shallow depth. Feed you Florida Sunshine with an azalea-camellia type fertilizer with the beginning of



Florida Sunshine anise is cold hardy in zones 6-9.



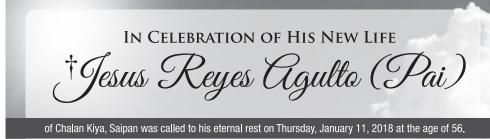
TNS

The leaves of the Florida Sunshine have a sweet anise fragrance.

spring growth.

While some Illicium may be used for spice, this is NOT to be eaten. Thankfully you will not find this on the menu of

the deer café either. While the blooms are inconsequential, the tiny seeds that may follow are reportedly eaten by birds. While it seems the winter will never end, I assure you spring is coming and when it arrives Florida Sunshine will make a terrific choice for your woodland garden.



In he Pair Pair Pair Bro Bro Bro Chi

at 6:00 am at Mount Carmel Cathedral

On Friday, January 19, 2018 at 7:30 am, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral

for viewing and last respect. Responso
Service will be held at 8:00 am, followed by
the Holy Rosary at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated

at 11:00 am, followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

In his new life, he now join his;

Parents: Parents in law: Brothers: Brother in law:

†Rosa R. Agulto and †Felix S. Agulto

t: †Maxima P. Genese and †Zacarias Genese

†Juan R. Agulto and †Felix R. Agulto

t: †Francisco B. Calleio

He will always live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Children:

Ester G. Agulto Anne Joyce G. Agulto Roselie G. Agulto Karen Claire G. Agulto

Siblings:

Juana A. & Jose N. Acosta & Children
Francisco R. & Elizabeth B. Agulto & Children
Herman M. Cabrera & Children
Dolores R. Agulto & Children
Jacinta R. Agulto & Children
Jose R. Agulto & Children
Jose R. Agulto & Children
Ramon R. Agulto
Antonio R. & Ana C. Agulto & Children
Carmen R. Agulto
Felix R. Agulto Jr.
Melissa A. & Jimmy Sablan & Daughter
Zinna R. Agulto & Gregorio Perez & Children

Brothers & Sisters in law:

Jaime P. & Vilma Genese & Children Betty G. & Claudio B. Callejo & Children Estefania G. & Delfin Jaravata & Children Dalia G. Callejo & Children Lydia G. & Lino Umaweng & Children Lita G. Canipas & Son Crisanto P. & Josie Genese & Children

He will be missed by his numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.



their wintering ranges. Anyone, even

Source: feederwatch.org

children, can apply to take part in this study.

- Brenda Weaver

20 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Good Housekeeping

Dolores O'Riordan, voice of The Cranberries, dies at 46

O'Riordan, whose urgent, powerful voice helped make Irish rock band The Cranberries a global success in the 1990s, died suddenly on Monday at a London hotel. She was 46.

The singer-songwriter's publicist, Lindsey Holmes, confirmed that O'Riordan died in London, where she was recording,

"No further details are available at this time," Holmes said, adding that O'Riordan's family was "devastated" by the news.

Her Cranberries bandmates-Noel Hogan, Mike Hogan and Fergus Lawlertweeted that O'Riordan "was an extraordinary talent and we feel very privileged to have been part of her life."

London's Metropolitan Police force said officers were called just after 9 a.m. Monday to a hotel where a woman in her 40s was found dead. The police force said the death was being treated as "unexplained."

The Hilton hotel in London's Park Lane confirmed that a guest had died on the

Ireland's President Michael D. Higgins said O'Riordan and The Cranberries "had an immense influence on rock and pop music in Ireland and internationally."

O'Riordan was born on Sept. 6, 1971 in Ballybricken, southwest Ireland. In 1990, she answered an ad from a local band in nearby Limerick city—then called The Cranberry Saw Us—that was looking for a lead singer.

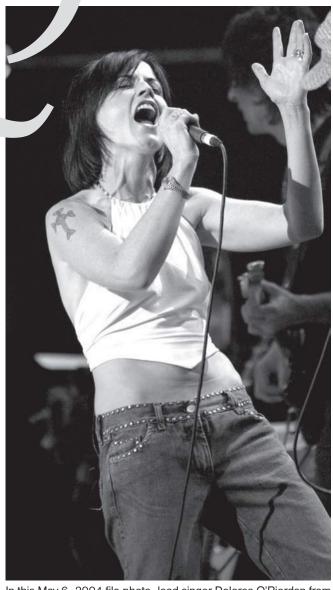
A name change and a confluence of factors turned The Cranberries into international stars. Their guitarbased sound had an alternative-rock edge at a time when grunge was storming the music scene.

The band's songs—on which O'Riordan was chief lyricist and co-songwriter had a Celtic-infused tunefulness. And in O'Riordan the group had a charismatic lead singer with a distinctively powerful voice.

Heavy play on MTV for their debut single "Dream" and the singles that followed helped bring the group to the attention of a mass audience.

The Cranberries' 1993 debut album, "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?", sold millions of copies and produced the hit single "Linger."

The follow-up, "No Need



In this May 6, 2004 file photo, lead singer Dolores O'Riordan from the The Cranberries performs onstage during a benefit show in aid of the United Nations UNHCR refugees fund held at the Royal Albert hall, central London.

to Argue," sold in even greater numbers and contained "Zombie," a visceral howl against Northern Ireland's violent Troubles that topped singles charts in several countries.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar tweeted Monday that "for anyone who grew up in Ireland in the 1990s, Dolores O'Riordan was the voice of a generation. As the female lead singer of a hugely successful rock band, she blazed a trail and might just have been Limerick's greatest ever rock

The band released three more studio albums before splitting up in 2003. O'Riordan released a solo album, "Are You Listening," in 2007, and another, "No Baggage," in 2009.

The Cranberries also reunited that year, resulting in the album "Roses" in 2012.

For a time, O'Riordan was one of Ireland's richest women, but she struggled with both physical and mental health problems.

The Cranberries released the acoustic album "Something Else" in 2017 and had been due to tour Europe and

North America. The tour was cut short because O'Riordan was suffering from back problems.

In 2014, O'Riordan was accused of assaulting three police officers and a flight attendant during a flight from New York to Ireland. She pleaded guilty and was fined 6,000 euros (\$6,600.)

Medical records given to the court indicated she was mentally ill at the time of the altercation. After her court hearing O'Riordan urged other people suffering mental illness to seek help.

She told London's Metro newspaper last year that she had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and she spoke to the Irish News about her battles with depression.

O'Riordan said depression "is one of the worst things to go through," but that "I've also had a lot of joy in my life, especially with my children."

"You get ups as well as downs. Sure, isn't that what life's all about?" she said.

O'Riordan is survived by her ex-husband, the former Duran Duran tour manager Don Burton, and their three

DuVernay, 'black-ish,' 'Power' win at NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A the ceremony at the Civic Aujubilant Ava DuVernay was named entertainer of the year at an NAACP Image Awards ceremony that focused on the black community's power to create change.

DuVernay lauded other black artists from the stage as she accepted her award Monday night, naming writers and directors such as Shonda Rhimes, Gina Prince-Bythewood, Kenya Barris and "Black Panther" Ryan Coogler.

'This is our time,' DuVernay said. "We can say we were here when all this gorgeous art was happening, and that we supported it—that we lifted each other up, that we did as Dr. King said we would do: Live the dream. We're the dream."

Anthony Anderson hosted

ditorium in Pasadena, California, on what would have been Martin Luther King Jr.'s 89th birthday. While his politically tinged monologue poked fun at the presidential administration and Omarosa Manigault, others used their time onstage to encourage more civic involvement and the fight for social justice.

Producer Will Packer took a dig at President Donald Trump's recent comments about immigration as the producer accepted an award for "Girls Trip," which won for outstanding film.

"Sisters, especially the ones from Haiti and Africa, we love you as your brothers," he said.

Kerry Washington, Tracee Ellis Ross, Laverne Cox, Jurnee Smollet-Bell, Lena Waithe and Angela Robinson set the tone for the evening when they emerged onstage holding hands to dramatically issue a get-out-the-vote call.

The six women declared support for the Time's Up initiative to stop sexual harassment and gender discrimination and urged viewers to speak up at the polls as well.

"The midterms are a perfect moment for us to use our voices," Robinson said. "If we can take back a senate seat in Alabama..."

"Then we have the ability to shift the imbalance of power," Smollet-Bell said.

Barris' show "black-ish" was the night's big winner. The ABC hit was named best comedy series and took acting honors for stars Ross and Anderson.

WINNERS' LIST

LOS ANGELES (AP)-Winners of the 49th NAACP Image Awards, announced Monday night in Pasadena, California: Entertainer of the year: Ava DuVernay

FILM

Motion picture: "Girls Trip" Actor, motion picture: Daniel Kaluuya, "Get Out" Actress, motion picture: Octavia Spencer, "Gifted"

TELEVISION

Comedy series: "black-ish" Drama series: "Power" Actor, comedy: Anthony Anderson, "black-ish" Actress, comedy: Tracee Ellis Ross, "black-ish" Actor, drama: Omari Hardwick, "Power" Actress, drama: Taraji P. Henson, "Empire"

Winners announced Sunday during a pre-telecast dinner:

Supporting actor: Idris Elba, "THOR: Ragnarok" Supporting actress: Tiffany Haddish, "Girls Trip" Independent film: "Detroit" Documentary: "STEF Writing: Jordan Peele, "Get Directing: Jordan Peele, "Get

MUSIC

New artist: SZA Male artist: Bruno Mars Female artist: Mary J. Blige Duo, group or collaboration: Kendrick Lamar feat. Rihanna Jazz album: "Petite Afrique," Somi Gospel/Christian album: "Greenleaf Soundtrack Vol-

ume 2," Greenleaf Soundtrack

Music video/visual album: "That's What I Like," Bruno Mars

Song, traditional: "That's What I Like," Bruno Mars "DAMN.." Kendrick Album:

Lamar

Song, contemporary: "HUM-BLE.," Kendrick Lamar

TELEVISION

Supporting actor, comedy series: Jay Ellis, "Insecure" Supporting actress, comedy series: Marsai Martin, "black-

Supporting actor, drama series: Joe Morton, "Scandal" Supporting actress, drama series: Naturi Naughton, "Power" Television movie. limited series or dramatic special: "The New Edition Story"

Actor, television movie, limited series or dramatic special: Idris Flba, "Guerrilla" Actress, television movie, lim-

ited series or dramatic special: Queen Latifah, "Flint" Directing, comedy series: Anton Cropper, "black-ish"

Directing, dramatic series: Carl Franklin, "13 Reasons Why" Directing, television movie,

es or dram cial: Allen Hughes, "The Defiant Ones" Writing, comedy series: Janine

Barrois, "Claws Writing, dramatic series: Gina

Prince-Bythewood, "Shots Fired" Writing, television movie or

special: Abdul Williams, "The New Edition Story" News/information series or special: "Unsung" Documentary: "The 44th President: In His Own Words' Talk series: "The Real"

Reality program/reality com-

petition series: "The Manns" Variety or game show series or special: "Lip Sync Battle" Children's Program: "Doc Mc-Stuffins"

Performance by a youth (series, special, television movie or limited series): Caleb McLaughlin, "Stranger Things" Host, talk or new/information series or special: Roland Martin, "News One Now"

Host, realit/reality competition, game show, variety series or special: LL Cool J, "Lip Sync Battle" (Spike) Character voice-over perfor-

mance: Tiffany Haddish, "Legends of Chamberlain Heights"

LITERATURE

Fiction: "The Annotated African American Folktales," Henry Louis Gates Jr. (Editor), Maria Tatar (Editor), (Liveright Publishing Corporation)

Non-fiction: "Defining Moments in Black History: Reading Between the Lies," Dick Gregory

Debut author: "No One Is Coming to Save Us," Stephanie Powell Watts

Biography or autobiography: "Becoming Ms. Burton, From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women," Susan Burton and Cari Lynn

Instructional: "The Awakened Woman: Remembering & Reigniting our Sacred Dreams," Dr. Tererai Trent

Poetry: "Incendiary Art: Poems," Patricia Smith

Children: "Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History,' Vashti Harrison

Youth and teens: "Clayton Byrd Goes Underground," Rita Williams-Garcia, author and Frank Morrison illustrator

Zeta-Jones says Michael Douglas is a 'Me Too' supporter

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Catherine Zeta-Jones says that husband Michael Douglas, who has denied allegations of sexual harassment, is a strong supporter of the #MeToo movement.

"Michael is 110 percent behind this movement," says Zeta-Jones, who noted that the 73-year-old Douglas is both the husband and son of actresses. "He's been in this

business working creatively with women for over 50 years."

Zeta-Jones spoke Sunday in Pasadena while promoting the TV movie "Cocaine Godmother."

Earlier this month, Douglas issued what he called a preemptive denial of allegations, vet to be published, that he harassed an employee in the 1980s and damaged her career.

Comedian Aziz Ansari responds to sex misconduct allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedian Aziz Ansari has responded to allegations of sexual misconduct by a woman he dated last year.

Ansari said in a Anzari statement Sunday that he apologized last year when she told him about her discomfort during a sexual encounter in

lieved to be consensual. The woman, identified as a 23-year-old photographer

his apartment he said he be-



in an interview with Babe.net, says she was furious when she saw Ansari was wearing a "Time's Up" pin while accepting a Golden Globe on Jan. 7.

She said it brought back memories of him assaulting her

after a date in his apartment. The next day, the woman texted Ansari letting him know that she was upset with his behavior that night.

Ansari says he was surprised and apologized.



Actor Michael Douglas and his wife, actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, look on during his father Kirk Douglas' 100th birthday party at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Friday, Dec. 9. 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

He acknowledged using "colorful language" but otherwise said the harassment story was a lie and that he was proud of his reputation.

Zeta-Jones did not directly address the allegations Sunday. But she said she was "very, very happy" with his statement and felt that he expressed himself "in a very, very concise, clear and personal manner."

Douglas' parents are the actors Kirk Douglas and Diana

Costner says he's no fan of sequels as writing often suffers

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— movie and it's the screenplay Kevin Costner isn't a big believer in doing film sequels for a simple reason.

Costner told TV critics Monday that the writing often isn't as good as in the original that draws him to a project.

He says that's why he's starring in "Yellowstone," a 10-part drama series debuting June 20 on the new Paramount Television network, the rebranded Spike TV.

The actor says that when he likes a script, it isn't just because he has a good part, but that all the characters are "doing a nice dance."

Costner plays the owner of Josh Lucas.

a vast, family-owned ranch who is trying to resist encroachment by developers and others. The ensemble cast includes Wes Bentley, Kelly Reilly, Jill Hennessey and

UKIP leader breaks up with girlfriend over racist texts

LONDON (AP)—The leader of the anti-EU U.K. Independence Party says he has broken up with his girlfriend after she made racist remarks about Prince Harry's fiancee, Meghan Markle.

Henry Bolton said Monday that "the romantic side" of his relationship with 25-year-old Jo Marney was over.

But the 54-year-old former soldier told ITV that he would not resign as party chief.

Marney, who describes herself as a model and actor, was suspended from UKIP after the Mail on Sunday newspaper published text messages to a friend in which she said Markle would "taint" the royal family.

Marney has apologized for the "shocking language," but says her words were taken out of context.

UKIP helped drive Britain's decision in 2016 to leave the European Union, but has struggled since then to retain support.

Cult movie 'Heathers' gets TV makeover, Doherty cameos PASADENA, Calif. (AP) these like three beautiful white The 1988 cult movie "Heathers" and the title characters get makeovers in a new TV series. In the big-screen dark come-

dy, the queen bees who shared the name Heather were three white high school students by played by Shannen Doherty, Lisanne Falk and Kim Walker.

A girl of color and a boy named Heath, who is gay, are part of the trio on the show, debuting March 7 on the Paramount Network, formerly Spike TV. Jasmine Mathews, Brendan Scannell and Melanie Field star.

"In the movie, we have

women who you wouldn't expect to be sort of like wreaking havoc on a school, and that was sort of new and hadn't been seen before," Scannell said. The retelling turns the story on its head, he said, with teens from traditionally marginalized communities "using the power of the internet and the power of pure self-confidence to trash everybody around them."

The show takes a deeper look than the movie could at what motivates the characters, said executive producer Jason Micallef. He sees both the orig-



In this Nov. 14, 2015 file photo, Shannen Doherty attends the 4th Annual Baby2Baby Gala in Culver City, Calif.

inal Heathers and the new ones as victims, not villains, which the show will explore, Micallef told TV critics Monday.

Both projects also fit their time, he said.

"The original film was released ... sort of at the end of the Reagan era, and in a time of transition. And I think now we're sort of in another clearly political time of transition," Micallef said.

Doherty, who played Heather Duke in the movie, will have cameo roles in three episodes, including the first, he said, declining to provide details.

Anger explodes in words, deeds woman later regrets

EAR ABBY: I am 28 and I'm disgusted with myself about how I talk to my mother when I'm stressed out. I know it's not her. It's me. My other issue is road rage. When I'm behind the wheel and the cars ahead of me are going too slow or the drivers make stupid moves, I'm annoyed to the point that I sometimes take risky chances to get away from them. I know it puts my life and the lives of others at risk, and I don't want to be like this.

I sometimes wonder why my parents didn't teach me ways to tone down my anger when I was younger. I'm lucky they still love me, even when I snap at them. Do you have any tips on how to control my temper?

SIMMERING IN SUBURBIA

DEAR SIMMERING: If you think you are alone in having these issues, you are mistaken. We are living in increasingly stressful times that have affected most of us in one way or another. If, however, you continue allowing your stress to dictate your behavior, it may eventually drive a wedge between you and the people you care about.

It's important that you realize anger is a normal emotion. At one time or another, anger is experienced by everyone. Recognizing what is CAUSING your stress and anger can help you to avoid taking it out on others.

It takes self-control—and maturity—to react calmly, in-

stead of reacting angrily. Being able to identify what's triggering the anger and causing you to verbalize it can help to prevent an outburst. Instead say, "When you do or say that, it makes me angry." Or try saying, "Mom, I'm stressed right now. Can we discuss this later?" Or, "I've had a really rough day. I need to be alone for a little while." Then go for a walk to help you to regain your perspective. Developing the ability to do this will not only lessen your guilt, but also earn you the respect of those with whom you interact. My Anger Booklet contains many suggestions for managing and constructively expressing anger in various situations. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for \$7 in U.S. funds to Dear Abby -- Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. As to your "over the top" reactions when you are in your car driving, try to remember that we are all human and make mistakes. I have made them, and so have you.

If you MUST drive during rush hours, try listening to music or an audio book. And count to 10 before you hit the accelerator. Avoid blasting the horn or making rude gestures. (Screaming is permissible as long as your windows are closed.)

People who lose control not only can get hurt in a variety of ways, but also hurt others -- including innocent bystanders. That's why it is very important to be able to express

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles,



anger in healthy ways.

We are living in a time when the anger level in our society has reached new heights. As we have seen all too often in news reports, explosive anger is the most dangerous of all. Perhaps constructive anger management should be taught in schools to help people more effectively communicate in a healthy manner.

DEAR ABBY: I've been seeking the answer to this for years. My husband is deceased. Am I still related to his family? How do I introduce them?

IN LIMBO IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR IN LIMBO: You are as related to them as you WANT to be. Introduce them by their names or as your former in-laws.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield_®

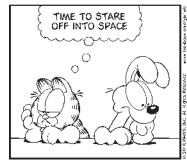
By Jim Davis



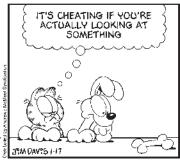












Adam@home

NOW THAT'S A

GOOD-LOOKING BASE FOR A SNOWMAN

alias

18 Warning

hooters

19 Baby

21 Night

24 Yalie

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30 "Way

cool!

33 Half of

XIV

34 Ledger

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35 Flamenco

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36 Hearing

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25 Canyon

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"Air-

YEAH, IT IS. IT'S BIG!



The Duplex By Bryan Basset





By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWO	ORD	By Eugene Sheffer		
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or answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King.

Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zooev Deschanel, 38; Maksim Chmerkovskiv, 38; Jim Carrey, 56; Betty White, 96.

Happy Birthday: Sit tight and wait for the right moment to make your move. Timing will be everything this year, and if you are too quick to act, you will be forced to begin again. Stay focused, dedicated and free from what others prompt you to do. Strategy, common sense and willpower will help you reach your goals in a timely fashion. Your numbers are 6, 9, 15, 27, 29, 36, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your life simple and avoid getting into a dispute with someone over money or matters that aren't that consequential. Strive for perfection, personal growth, better health and greater happiness. Accept the inevitable and work with what you've got. OOOO

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Tuck your emotions away where they cannot be detected. It's important to display a poker face if you want to navigate your way into a prime position. No matter what or who you are dealing with, control will be an issue. 33

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Search for information that will help you bypass trouble with authority figures. Get a clear vision of your financial status before you make a donation or commit to taking on an additional expense. Personal improvements are in your best interest. 00000

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Generosity or miscalculating the cost of a repair or other expenses that unexpectedly crop up will leave you short. Monitor your spending carefully to ensure that you don't miss an important payment. Proper diet and fitness should be a priority.

should be handled carefully. Emotions will swell up if you make too many changes without discussing your plans with anyone who will be affected by the choices you make. Avoid indulgent behavior as well as emotional manipulation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Attend a networking event or seminar that will offer different points of view. Gathering information will help you determine what's best for you Don't let anyone persuade you into making a snap decision when money is involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let past exship healthy. Outside meddling or interference should be eliminated quickly to avoid making a mistake. Share your feelings and find out where

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't feel vou have to act impulsively in order to keep someone's interest. Do your own thing and don't worry about what others think. Go ahead and do things differently. Your uniqueness

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

health. Consider what you can do to make improvements without going into debt. Change is

EUGENIA LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Relationships

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

only good if it doesn't throw other aspects of your

periences lead the way. Consider what you can do to keep an important relationyou stand. OOOOO

will draw interest and help you excel. ••••

Reevaluate the past and how you have taken care of your interests and your COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



dealing with partners, friends or relatives. Refuse to be railroaded into something that doesn't meet your standards or isn't of interest to you. Love and happiness should be your top priorities. •••

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think twice before you take action. Find out exactly what's going on before you call out someone who may or may not be the problem. Observe and moderate situations to avoid complaints as well as making a regrettable mistake.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look at the big picture when it comes to your overall health, personal finances and commitments. Practicality and common sense are best put

into play to avoid being persuaded to get involved in something you may regret later. OOO Birthday Baby: You are charming, gracious and kind. You are outgoing and sensitive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		9	8	4	3	6		
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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	1	3	6	5	9	7	2	8
7	8	9	4	3	2	1	5	6
6	5	2	1	7	8	9	4	3
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8	3	7	5	1	4	2	6	9
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9	2	4	8	6	3	5	7	1
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Printing to the second									•

Wonderword OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY, All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

100	WOMEN CHAIN													
DAVID CASSIDY (1950-2017)									5	ioluti	on:	12 le	tters	
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Aarons, Actor, Arista, Atthecopa, Beau, Biopic, Blood Brothers, Boat, Bonanza, Cherish, Concert, Evelyn, Fame, Family, Guitarist, I Think I Love You, I Write the Songs, Jack, Jones, Katie, Kay, Keith, Lenz, Live, New York, Partridge, Pick, Popular, RCA, Rodney, Ruth, Scott, Shaun, Shirley, Singer, Solo, Sue Shifrin, Teen Idol, Time, Tour, Track, Ward Yesterday's Answer: Battles

Treasuries 13 through 29 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WAREHOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERK

Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI is looking for an Administrator for our Warehouse and Construction support to join our ever growing team of professionals.

Office Support:

- Maintain filing system (Warehouse and Job site requirements and distribution of essential equipment and tools to our technicians).
- Maintain Warehouse and office supplies/equipment, ordering and scheduling maintenance as necessary.
- Assist Staff in various administration responsibilities, including archiving of files.
- Become familiar with and utilize Field and Job Cost Procedures
- support the sales director in various administration support activities

Accounting Administration:

- Assist Operations Director with accounting of projects, material and high/low levels of inventory.
- Process Warehouse Inventory Spreadsheets.

Reporting

- Produce warehouse summary reports
- Provide daily Reports to the Operations Director.
- Track and maintain inventory

Qualifications:

- Preferably US Citizen or Green Card Holder Must have 4+ years clerical/administrative experience preferably in the
- construction industry. Must have excellent computer skills and be able to demonstrate proficiency with MS Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Must be able to work in a fast-paced warehouse/office environment, able to multi task, meet critical deadlines with eye for accuracy and attention to details
- Ability to work with all levels of project staff and organization

Applications can be picked up at MRE Office (Across Highway Express/Shell Gualo Rai) or call Del Renojo @ (670) 233-4673 for more info. Send your completed employment application and/or resume to jvoacolo@micronesiarenewableenergv.com

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (01) RECEPTIONIST INTERN (Full-time)

Serves visitors by greeting, welcoming, and directing them appropriately; notifies company personnel of visitor arrival; maintains security and telecommunications system.

- Welcomes visitors by greeting them, in person or on the telephone;
- answering or referring inquiries.

 Directs visitors by maintaining employee and department directories;
- giving instructions.

 Maintains security by following procedures and monitoring logbook.
- Maintains telecommunication system by following manufacturer's instructions for house phone and console operation. Maintains safe and clean reception area by complying with procedures,
- rules, and regulations.
- Maintains continuity among work teams by documenting and communicating actions, irregularities, and continuing needs.
- Performs clerical duties.
- Sorts mail.
- Types memos and envelopes.
 Prepare documents and packages for mail or shipping.
- Scan, rename, and file documents on server. Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Telephone Skills, Verbal Communication, Microsoft Office Skills, Listening, Professionalism, Customer Focus, Organization, Informing Others, Handles Pressure, Phone Skills, Supply Management
- Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US Citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan or email resume to HR Manager, Tania Mesa at tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 4:00 pm. No phone calls please.

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Job Vacancy Announcements YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers, Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status, Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products,

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations,

Accountant (1): Must be efficient in handling financial records, statements, & reports. Have knowledge on all Taxes computation & filing. Must be able to budget & estimate purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise necessary in the company.

Restaurant Waitress (5): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (6): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours inc weekends and night time

Applicants of all positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Deadline to submit application will be on Monday, January 29, 2018 at

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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WHATZIT Solution: Head in the sand

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 23

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- (5) Screen Printer Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Knowledge in screen printing equipment &
- (1) Accounting Clerk Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.
- (1) Graphic Artist Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. Minimum of 5 yrs. experience as Graphic Artist. Proficient in Illustrator/Photoshop CS5.
- (1) Sales and Marketing Coordinator Atleast 2 years work related experience. Highly motivated and goal oriented, with a confident, energetic, positive attitude.
- (2) Security Guard Wide security experience in access systems, patrolling, investigative procedures, incident report writing, and customer service. Atleast 2 years of experience. Willing to
- (2) Barber/Beautician One to Two years experience as Barber/Beautician. Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

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 $All advertising in the \textit{Saipan Tribune} \ are \ subject to \ applicable \ rate$ sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Home underdogs again, Eagles embrace role



PHIA (AP)— The dog masks aren't going anywhere.

The Philadelphia Eagles (14-3) are home underdogs again. Case Keenum and the Minnesota Vikings (14-3) opened the week as 3+-point favorites in the NFC championship game on Sunday.

That's just fine with the Eagles, who embraced their underdog role against sixth-seed Atlanta. Philadelphia was the first No. 1 seed in league history not favored to win its first playoff game.

After beating the Falcons 15-10, Pro Bowl right tackle Lane Johnson and veteran defensive end Chris Long mocked doubters by wearing German Shepherd dog masks as they walked off the field.

The dog masks have become a popular item in Philly since the players wore them Saturday night. The team announced fans can wear them on Sunday as long as they take them off during security check entering the stadium.

"To have a lot of people not having a lot of confidence in us and yet to find ways to win just makes it that much more special for this group," coach Doug Pederson said Monday.

Expectations for the Eagles



have dropped since Carson Wentz tore his ACL in Week 14. Nick Foles is 3-1 in his place with the only loss coming in Week 17 when the starters only played one quarter.

But the offense clearly isn't the same without Wentz, who is an MVP candidate after

tossing 33 touchdown passes in 13 games.

"Since that point, no one has given us a chance." Pederson said. "Nobody has given us a chance. And I understand, Carson's a great player, but every week, our guys are hearing the same thing; that

for the last month of football.

matter what you guys talk about because that locker room in there is united and I'll go to bat for every one of those guys and I'll go to war with every one of those guys in that dressing room."

now we are all of a sudden

not good enough. We're 13-3

and have the best record in

football, we've got home-field

"The guys are going to mo-

tivate themselves just based on

what they have done and heard

"Listen, it really doesn't

advantage throughout.

The Eagles were on the opposite side the previous time they played for a trip to the Super Bowl nine years ago. They were 4-point road favorites in the conference championship game at Arizona, but Kurt Warner and Larry Fitzgerald led the Cardinals to a 32-25 comeback win.

Since 2000, the home team has been an underdog four times in the NFC title game. The underdog Giants beat the Vikings in January 2000 and the Cardinals beat the Eagles in January 2009. The Bears lost to the Packers in Chicago in January 2010 and the Falcons lost to the 49ers in Atlanta in January 2012.

"I'm glad they're not in charge of my finances," tight end Zach Ertz said of prognosticators. "It feels like all of those guys that pick the games are typically wrong. Same with the guys that usually do the draft stuff, the mock draft, kind of the same thing. All these guys that think they know everything typically don't."

The Eagles are using critics for extra motivation as they pursue the franchise's first Super Bowl title and first NFL championship since 1960.

"Just keep on disrespecting and we're going to keep proving people wrong," receiver Alshon Jeffery said. "We just believe in one another, we don't care what anybody else says. We're just going to keep believing in one another and just keep fighting."

Titans fire coach Mularkey after playoff win

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— The Tennessee Titans believe the potential reward from quarterback Marcus Mariota working with his third head coach in his fourth NFL season outweighs the risk of change.

Or sticking with the same

So now the Titans are looking for a new coach to replace Mike Mularkey and build off the franchise's first playoff win in 14 years to make them a true NFL contender.

"There's nothing more that I want for our fans than to bring a championship here," general manager Jon Robinson said Monday afternoon . "I feel like it's my charge to put the team in the best position to do that."

The Titans fired Mike Mularkey on Monday, less than 48 hours after a 35-14 loss to New England in the AFC divisional round. Mularkey revived a team with the NFL's worst record over two seasons and led them to their first playoff victory in 14 years only to become the first coach let go after winning a playoff game since San Francisco fired Steve Mariucci after the 2002 season.

Titans controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk turned to Mularkey in November 2015 when she fired Ken Whisenhunt after 23 games. Mularkey went 2-7 down the stretch as the Titans finished 3-13 to land the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2016. That capped a 5-27 record over 2014 and 2015 that was the NFL's worst.

Mularkey led the Titans to back-to-back 9-7 records their first consecutive winning records since 2007-08. He finished with a 21-22 record after a season in which the Titans cost themselves the AFC South title with a three-game skid in December and needed to beat the Jaguars, now in the AFC championship game, to reach the postseason for the first time since 2008.

His devotion to an offense he's known since being offensive coordinator in Pittsburgh between 2001 and 2003 may have cost him. He said Sunday he was prepared to move "full speed" ahead after talking with Strunk. He defended offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie's play-calling, saying he was happy with Mariota's development.

Mularkey also said he didn't anticipate any changes on his coaching staff a week after Strunk issued a statement on his job security . But talk of an extension since a 22-21 comeback win against Kansas City in the wild-card round ended Monday morning when Robinson and president and chief executive officer Steve Underwood told Mularkey they was being let go.

Strunk called it "unfortunate" that they couldn't find common ground on how to improve.

"I also view this as an important moment for our football team as we try to make that next step to sustained success on the field," Strunk said in a statement.

Now Robinson will oversee his first coaching search with the Titans the seventh NFL team to change coaches since the start of the season. He was hired two days before Mularkey had the interim title removed in January 2016.

In Indianapolis, New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels could soon be on the other side of an AFC rivalry.

A person familiar with the negotiations said Monday the Indianapolis Colts are "close" to reaching a deal that would make McDaniels their next head coach. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the two sides had not yet agreed to terms.

Even if they did reach a deal, though, league rules prohibit the Colts from making an official announcement until after the Patriots' season ends. New England will host Jacksonville in Sunday's AFC Championship game. If the Pats win, the announcement wouldn't come until at least Feb. 5.

Humbled Steelers face questions heading into offseason PITTSBURGH (AP)—It wasn't the pregame talk about New England.

Or the seemingly weekly distractions that piled up one on top of the other, some of them self-created and others the byproduct of circumstances far beyond their control.

The Pittsburgh Steelers spent Monday cleaning out their lockers instead of getting ready for the AFC championship game because they were outplayed and outclassed by Jacksonville in a wild 45-42 loss.

That's it. That's all.

"I don't think (the outside noise) had anything to do with it," guard David De-Castro said. "They just made more plays than us. I don't mean to sound cliche, but I thought we did a great job blocking all that stuff out all year and didn't make too big a deal of it."

If anything, the Steelers seemed to thrive off adversity while going 13-4 and earning a second straight AFC North title.

Yet all that swagger, all that confidence eroded over the course of three difficult hours against the Jaguars.

The defense that set a franchise record and led the NFL with 55 sacks couldn't get a hand on Blake Bortles.

The offense piled up 534 yards, but also committed two turnovers that gift-wrapped Jacksonville 14 points.

Running back Le'Veon Bell stressed there were "no excuses" heading into the postseason.

And as they met for the last time before the cycle begins anew in March, they didn't offer any.

Four consecutive playoff berths have yielded zero parades through downtown in mid-February with the Lombardi Trophy in hand.

They're well aware the issue isn't talent.

"Every time you don't win the Super Bowl, it's a wasted opportunity," linebacker Vince Williams said.

Asked if he believes the pieces are in place for the current core to take the step that's proven elusive, quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said he "absolutely" does while promising to return for a 15th season.

It's an assurance that at least will help the Steelers avoid the weeks of "will he or won't he" Roethlisberger put the team through while he pondered his future last spring.

"I don't know about contracts and who's coming back, but I know the guys up front are," Roethlisberger said. "That makes it good for me."

It just might not make it good for everyone.

Durant's 32 points send Warriors past LeBron, Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Stephen Curry added 23 and the Golden State Warriors extended their road winning

streak to 13 games with a 118-108 Martin Luther King holiday victory Monday night over the Cleveland Cavaliers, their struggling NBA Finals foes.

Durant scored 16 in the third quarter for the defending champions, who haven't lost outside Oracle Arena since Nov. 22.

LeBron James scored 32 points and Kevin Love 17 for Cleveland, which had its home winning streak stopped at 13. Isaiah Thomas, getting his first taste of the Warriors-Cavaliers rivalry, had 19 points in a seasonhigh 32 minutes as he works his way back from a hip injury.

It was Golden State's second straight win over the Cavs, who have dropped eight of 10 dating to a loss to the Warriors on Christmas Day.

Clippers 113, Rockets 102

In Los Angeles, Lou Williams scored 31 points, Blake Griffin added 29 before his ejection, and Los Angeles beat Houston in Chris Paul's heated return to Staples Center against his old team.

Buoyed by Williams' 13th straight game of 20 or more points, the Clippers won their fifth in a row.

Paul had 19 points, six rebounds and seven assists.

Things got testy with $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes to go. Griffin scored under the basket and Paul was called for a foul. Paul ran over to the referees in disbelief, while Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni appeared to unleash expletives in Griffin's direction.

The referees reviewed video of the play and confirmed the foul on Paul, while also assessing double technicals to Griffin and D'Antoni.

Bucks 104, Wizards 95

In Washington, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 27 points and grabbed a career-high 20 rebounds as Milwaukee beat Washington for the second time in 10 days.

Like it was on Jan. 6, it was tight late before Antetokounmpo took over. He led Milwaukee on an 11-0 run in the final minutes and finished 9 of 23 from the field, dribbling out the clock to "M-V-P!" chants from Bucks fans in attendance for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day matinee in Washington.

Grizzlies 123, Lakers 114

In Memphis, Dillon Brooks matched his season best with 19 points and eight Memphis players finished in double figures.

Marc Gasol had 17 points and seven rebounds for Memphis, while Tyreke Evans had 15 points and 12 assists. Wayne Selden and James Ennis III added 13 points each.

The Lakers ended a fourgame winning streak.

Thunder 95, Kings 88

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 19 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists



before being ejected, and Oklahoma City rallied from a 15-point first-half deficit to beat Sacramento.

Carmelo Anthony added 20 points, Paul George scored 18 and Steven Adams had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Thunder, who avoided what would have been a fourth

straight home loss.

76ers 117, Raptors 111

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 34 points and 11 rebounds and Philadelphia narrowly avoided blowing another big lead in a 117-111 victory over cold-shooting Toronto.

T.J. McConnell added a

career-high 18 points and JJ Redick scored 15 before leaving with a left leg injury for the Sixers, who shook off Ben Simmons' foul trouble to win for the fifth time in six games.

Hawks 102, Spurs 99

In Atlanta, Dennis Schroder scored 26 points, Ersan IlyasGolden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (35) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson (13) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018, in Cleveland.

ova added 20 and Atlanta held off San Antonio in the closing seconds.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio, which dropped to 10-14 on the road.

The Hawks (11-31) never trailed after John Collins' tipin made it 78-76 with 9:23 remaining.

Bulls 119, Heat 111

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 18 points in his second game for Chicago, Justin Holiday made a career-best seven 3s and scored 25 points, and the Bulls ended Miami's seven-game winning streak.

The Bulls have won three straight and 14 of their last 21.

LaVine tore an ACL last season with Minnesota and was traded in a package for Jimmy Butler in the offseason. He scored 14 points in his Bulls debut Saturday against Detroit.

Knicks 119, Nets 104

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis had 26 points and nine rebounds, Michael Beasley added 23 points and 10 boards, and New York opened its longest road trip in nearly 30 years by beating Brooklyn.

A day after blowing a 19-point lead in the third quarter of a loss to New Orleans, the Knicks lost most of a 14-point advantage heading to the fourth. But they opened the period with 11 straight points and went on to beat the Nets comfortably for the third time this season.

Hornets 118, Pistons 107

In Detroit, Kemba Walker scored 17 of his 20 points in the second half, and Charlotte pulled away in the fourth quarter of a win over Detroit.

Dwight Howard had 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Hornets, who trailed 56-50 at halftime before dominating the final two quarters. A 10-0 run in the fourth put Charlotte ahead 106-88.

Pacers 109, Jazz 94

In Salt Lake City, Victor Oladipo scored 28 points and Indiana shot 54 percent from 3-point range in a win Utah.

Oladipo got going late in the second quarter during a 15-2 run that gave Indiana a 14-point lead. Then his backto-back buckets early in the third capped a 9-0 surge to push the advantage to 67-47.

Nadal returns to his sleeveless roots and pain-free play

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—If Rafael Nadal

straight-out-ofthe-mid-2000s final against Roger Federer, he's completed the retro effect this year with a return to his sartorial roots—a sleeveless T-shirt.

Matching the muscleexposing Nike tank top with tion matches last week to test neon pink shorts, wristbands his form, Nadal had doubts and headband, Nadal also found his championship form again in a 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 rout of 37-year-old Victor Estrella Burgos in the first round at Melbourne Park.

The top-ranked Spaniard, who made a splash as a teenager with his trademark sleeveless shirts and knee-length pirate pants, came into this year's Australian Open with questions about his health and readiness to compete following a taxing season that saw him capture two Grand Slams

and return to No. 1.

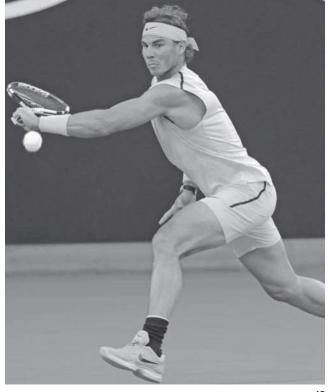
Nadal had been forced him gave the Australian Open a to withdraw from the ATP throwback feel last year with Finals in November due to a

lingering right knee injury, and when the pain persisted, he also pulled out of a season-opening exhibition event in Abu Dhabi and his first tournament in Brisbane.

With only a few exhibihe'd be ready to go in time for the first major of the year. But a dominant performance against Estrella Burgos - he had 28 winners and saved five of six break points he faced left him feeling positive about his start in Melbourne.

''If I don't feel myself ready, I will not be here. So I am happy to be here, happy that I'm on court again," he said.

With several top seeds falling on the women's side, including 2017 Australian Open finalist Venus Williams



Spain's Rafael Nadal looks into the ball for a return to Victor Estrella Burgos of the Dominican Republic during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

and U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens, the men's draw was largely spared similar upsets.

Third-seeded Grigor Dimitrov advanced with a routine 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 win over qualifier Dennis Novak, while No. 6 Marin Cilic topped Vasek Pospisil 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5) and local favorite Nick Kyrgios looked sharp in a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Rogerio Dutra Silva.

"Obviously I know I'm hitting the ball well," Kyrgios said. "But to go out there in front of the crowd again, just trying to play well, I was a bit nervous going out there. (I'm) happy to get through."

No. 10 Pablo Carreno Busta, No. 23 Gilles Muller, No. 24 Diego Schwartzman, No. 28 Damir Dzumhur, No. 30 Andrei Rublev and No. 31 Pablo Cuevas also advanced.

No. 8 Jack Sock, No. 11 Kevin Anderson and No. 16 John Isner were among the losers.

Giants acquire McCutchen from Pirates



Giants found the outfielder they were looking for this winter, acquiring Andrew Mc-Cutchen from Pittsburgh on Monday to fill a key void.

San Francisco parted with right-hander Kyle Crick, minor league outfielder Bryan Reynolds and \$500,000 in international signing bonus allocation. The Pirates also sent \$2.5 million to the Giants to cover part of Mc-Cutchen's \$14.75 million salary.

"It's no secret that we were looking to further add run production to our lineup," said Brian Sabean, Giants executive vice president of baseball operations. "Anytime you have the opportunity to bring aboard someone with such a track record, you have to jump on it."

The 31-year-old McCutchen, a former NL MVP and long the face of the Pirates' franchise, became the second star jettisoned by Pittsburgh in three days. Ace Gerrit Cole was traded to Houston on Saturday.

"Pittsburgh.My Home.My Fans.My City," McCutchen tweeted . "You will 4ever be in my heart."

McCutchen added: "Now...I'm a Giant! Ive always enjoyed watching the success of the (at)SFGiants and I look forward to being a part of more this season. Can't wait to meet my new teammates and fans. This is just the beginning."

Pirates chairman Bob Nutting said the trade was "one of the most emotionally agonizing decisions that we have had to make in my tenure."

"Andrew helped create so many special memories both on and off the field for me, our



The Giants have acquired Andrew McCutchen from the Pirates.

organization and our fans. He did so while always carrying himself with humility, dignity and grace," he said.

Pittsburgh ended a twodecade postseason drought in 2013 and made three straight playoff appearances before falling to 78-83 in 2016 and 75-87 last year.

"Making the right decision for the Pirates organization is at times difficult and, on rare occasions, painful," Pirates president Frank Coonelly said. "No player was more disappointed than Andrew that we did not break through and win a World Series championship for the City of Pittsburgh."

Earlier in the offseason, the

Giants acquired third baseman Evan Longoria from Tampa Bay.

McCutchen, the 2013 NL MVP, may take over in center from Denard Span, who was traded to the Rays in the Longoria deal, or he could slide to an outfield corner. San Francisco wanted more production from the outfield after a lastplace season in the NL West.

"Andrew is a dynamic player on the field and will be a leader in our clubhouse," manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's always been a threat at the plate and he's a guy you don't ever want to deal with whether he's at the plate or on the bases. He's going to make something happen.'

The durable McCutchen has played at least 153 games in each of the past three seasons for the Pirates, batting .279 with 28 home runs and 88 RBI in 156 games in 2017. But he has not been an All-Star since 2015, when he was selected for the fifth straight season.

McCutchen is entering the final season of a six-year, \$51.5 million contract he signed in March of 2012, a deal that turned into a bargain as he became a star and powered Pittsburgh's turnaround.

Pittsburgh never made it past the division series and the club has fallen well back of St. Louis and the Chicago Cubs in the competitive NL Central

the last two seasons. The Pirates began an overhaul when they traded Cole to Houston on Saturday for pitchers Joe Musgrove and Michael Feliz. third baseman Colin Moran and outfielder Jason Martin.

"Watching Andrew patrol center field with grace, fly around the bases, drive the ball all around the ballpark, celebrate with his teammates or interact with his family, friends or fans has created lifelong memories," Pirates general manager Neal Huntington said.

McCutchen's exit leaves the Pirates without a marquee player, something he's been since the moment he made his major league debut on

to be done in April, the latest.

working on a request for pro-

posal. Renovation will start

once we are done with that and

"Right now they are already

June 4, 2009. His arrival signaled Pittsburgh's readiness to emerge from two decades of mediocrity. McCutchen was an All-Star by 2011, a charismatic presence in the clubhouse, one who was beloved by a fan base that he helped reconnect with the game.

Now he's off to San Francisco, which at 64-98 stumbled to its worst record since 1985.

Giants general manager Bobby Evans said McCutchen "will be a difference maker in our lineup."

Crick, 25, had a 3.06 ERA, 28 strikeouts in 32 1/3 innings and a .191 opponents' batting average last year in his first big league season, allowing three of 21 inherited runners to score.

"Kyle Crick is a physical, major league-ready righthanded reliever who brings a high-velocity, live fastball complimented by a quality slider to potentially pitch in a late inning role for the Pirates," Huntington said.

Reynolds, a 22-year-old switch-hitter, batted .312 with 26 doubles, nine triples, 10 homers and 63 RBI as Class A San Jose. He was a secondround pick in 2016.

In Washington, the Nationals have agreed to a \$7 million, two-year contract with outfielder Howie Kendrick, a deal subject to a successful physical.

Agent Pat Murphy confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on Monday. USA Today was first to report the deal.

Kendrick, 34, hit .293 with seven home runs and RBI in 52 games with Washington after he was acquired from Philadelphia. The versatile right-handed hitter got just three plate appearances off the bench in the playoffs.

GSM

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gave up an earned run to Joe Fleming, who scored on a Justin Reyes RBI single, on two hits while striking out three batters and walking two.

Fleming, with two outs after Ben Tagabuel grounded to second and John Taitano was struck out swinging, doubled against Sablan's first pitch in the eighth, finding a gap between the center and right fields. Reyes then moved to second on a Sablan wild pitch, but the GSM pitcher

foiled the Boleros' comeback bid when he threw his fourth pitch and David Kapileo struck out swinging.

The GSM defense, with one out after Sablan retired George Fleming, also provided a highlight play at the bottom of the seventh with an inning-ending double play courtesy of Igisomar's catch at left field off a shot from Steve Igisaiar. Igisomar made the throw to third baseman Ben Hocog. who then caught pinch runner Alvin Takei. Takei pinched ran for Mark Toves, who walked

and stole second.

After the win, Sablan said that he just focused on getting the strikeouts and trusted their defense in case the Boleros managed to hit his throws.

"I'm just trying my best to get every batter out so we could end the game. My goal was to get the first strikeout and go from there. My goal was not to give them a hit and the chance to score."

Flores pitched four innings in relief for GSM, surrendering seven runs on seven hits with two walks and a strikeout.

Starter Joe Terlaje lasted two innings and was tagged with five runs on six hits while fanning one batter and walking two.

Before GSM stole the driver's seat, the then unbeaten Boleros seemed headed for an easy win after posting a 12-7 lead, heading into the top of the fourth. However, GSM's offense went in full swing in that inning as it scored seven runs, highlighted by Igisomar's two-RBI double. GSM was in control after that to hand the Boleros a sorry loss.

IT&E

From Page 27

games left in the double-round

IT&E took victory No. 2 after catching fire in the second half, scoring 32 points to turn an 18-19 halftime deficit to a double-digit triumph. A.J. Garon, Marlene Lumabi, and Jeraldine Castillo joined forces for IT&E in the second half, registering 10, 9, and 6 points, respectively.

when the project is awarded to a contractor," Rogolifoi said.

Sonia Dancoe will be overseeing the project and last month she made an ocular inspection of the facilities damaged by Typhoon Soudelor and others that need improvement.

OLEAI

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robin elimination and still has a chance for one of the four semis berths provided that it sweeps its remaining matches and neither Marianas Variety nor CTSI gets more than five wins.

Jeraldine's older sister, Jeralyn led Shirley's Coffee Shop after recording 18 points.

First Game

IT&E 50 — Garon 20, Lumabi 9, Jeraldine Castillo 9, Pena 4, Ocampo 2, Buenabajo 2, Jerlyn Castillo 2, Manglona 2.

Shirley's 40 — Castillo 18, Castos 8, Ballesteros 4, Surima 4, Vargas 2, Carreon 2, Enriquez 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-19. 50-40.

Second Game

Marianas Variety 41 — Kautz 12, Flores 10, Chinen 9, Han 4, Villagomez 4, Cho 2.

CTSI 38 — Pablo 13, Alferos 6, M. Alegre 4, J. Alegre 4, Echavez 4, Espinosa 2, Sabino 2, Watanabe 2.

Scoring by halves: 19-16,

SAKISAT

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ros' James Fleming and Mike Guerrero with the most triples with three each.

Fleming was the league's runs champion with 29, while his teammates Mario Aguon and Mark Toves had the most doubles with six apiece. Justin Reves, another player from the pennant champions Boleros.

joined Saisei's Hector Efraim and the IPI Masters' Joe Torres on the list of players that hit one homer the entire season.

The GSM Masters' Mark Flores was the league's batting champion with a .543 average, while teammate Tony Flores was named the Finals MVP after pitching four innings in relief in their win over the Boleros, 22-16. The Boleros' Derron Flores was awarded the Manager of the Year trophy, while Perry Besong of Sportsmanship awardee Saisei earned the Coach of the Year trophy.

In the team awards, the Boleros were the pennant champions, while GSM finished second after the elimination round. Their roles reversed in the finals with GSM defending its title and relegating the Boleros to runners-up, while the IPI Masters secured third

place after beating Papa Bears in the consolation match last week, 19-12.

J.J. Laniyo, David George, Macarion Scalliem, Alvin Takai, Steve Igisiar, Mario Sablan, Lucian George, John Taitano, Gus Pangelinan, Ben Tagabuel, Dave Kaileo, Julian Salalila, Gerald Agulto, Danny Suel, Elmer Sablan, Manny Cabrera, and Jack Guerrero were the other members of the Boleros.

Conatsu brings home doubles title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com



Conatsu Kaga returns Saipan today, bringing with

her a doubles crown she won in Australia last week.

Kaga and the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan bested 11 other pairs in the Victorian Grass Court Championships 2018 played in Wodonga, Victoria from Jan. 10 to 13 to win

the girls U14 doubles title in their second tournament in the Land Down Under.

The CNMI player and her partner completed their stunning triumph in the grass court tournament held at the Wodonga Tennis Centre after pulling off an upset over No. 1 seed Mystique Maljanek and Laura Peart of Victoria in the finals. Kaga and Morgan set up the title win after an impressive 6-2 triumph in the opening set. Then in the second set although



IT&E, Marianas Variety top opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



IT&E Marianas Variety prevailed in the pair of

matches in the girls division of the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

IT&E won over Shirley's Coffee Shop in the first game in the division, 50-40, while Marianas Variety edged CTSI in the second tiff, 41-38.

Mikki Kautz knocked in consecutive baskets in the homestretch, while Louisa Han added a field goal and Quincy Chinen made her contributions early in the second half to lift Marianas *Variety* to the 3-point win.

Kautz scored 7 straight points in the closing minutes of the match or three of Marianas Variety's last four baskets. Han drilled the last basket, while Chinen handed their team its first 5 points

and made 7 of her 9 markers in the second half.

The former Mt. Carmel School standout Kautz finished with 12 points, 9 of them came in the second half, as she foiled CTSI's repeated attempts to steal the win from Marianas Variety. Quina Flores also ended up tallying double figures and her 10 points in the first half kept Marianas Variety in front despite the early offensive struggle of Kautz.

With the victory, Marianas Variety now has an even 4-4 record, tving CTSI for third to fourth place in the team standings. Idle GSM Lady Ol'Aces leads the division with its unblemished 7-0 mark, while Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is ranked second with its 5-2 card.

IT&E is at No. 5 as it improved its record to 2-5 following the 10-point win over Shirley's (0-7). The victory also kept IT&E's playoffs hopes alive, mathematically. IT&E has three more

See IT&E on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Jeraldine Castillo, left, dribbles away from a GSM Lady Ol'Aces defender during their game in the first round of the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Maljanek and Peart played better, the CNMI-Solomon Islands tandem held its ground and eked out a 6-4 victory for the finals sweep.

Despite needing only two sets to prevail in the finals, Kaga said the victory was tough.

"It was very intense. Before the match, our coach told us

to set one goal for our games and our goal was to have fun. I actually had fun even though I was feeling nervous. We had a very good game," Kaga told Saipan Tribune last Sunday before leaving Melbourne.

The sweep over Maljanek and Peart was Kaga and Morgan's second in the tournament. The first was versus Abbey Mcphee and Patsy Pamela Ryan-Betts, 6-1, 6-3. In their next two assignments, the CNMI and Solomon Islands players had to go survive super-tiebreaker games to keep their title hopes alive. Kaga and Morgan's first extended match was against No. 2 Chloe Anne

Conatsu Kaga, fourth left, joins fellow Pacific Oceania Touring Team players for a group photo in front of the Rod Laver Arena, the venue for the 2018 Australian Open in Melbourne.

Brereton and Grace Fountain, 6-4, 3-6, 10-8 and the win moved the first pair into the semifinals. In the Final Four, Kaga and Morgan were pitted anew over seeded players in No. 3 Aaliyah Da Silva and Erica Renee Sarnacki and the Pacific Oceania duo escaped with a 6-4, 1-6, 10-8 to set a finals date with Maljanek and Peart.

The Australian finalists were highly favored in the title game, as they dominated their first two opponents, winning via sweeps. However, Kaga and Morgan caught Malianek and Peart by surprise to head home victorious after faltering in their first tournament.

Kaga, Morgan, and their other Pacific Oceania Tour teammates, including the CNMI's Sean Lee, also competed in the Albury Grasscourts in New South Wales and missed a Top 3 finish in the singles and doubles.

"Both tournaments were good opportunities for us to learn and play against Australian players. We made a lot of new friends and rivals and our billets were very nice," Kaga said.

Double-digit winning margin for Saipan Tribune, Kanoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Djay Ong had a farewell fitting game for Saipan Tribune, as he ex-

ploded for 30 points in their 70-53 demolition of Shirley's Coffee Shop in the second match in the 2017 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Ong, who is now in Guam after spending his school break and holidays on Saipan, seized the moment of his last game for Saipan Tribune, scoring the squad's first 11 points en route to their 29-20 halftime advantage. He finished the first 20 minutes of the match with 18 points, nearly matching the output on the entire Shirley's crew.

The 6'1 player was still unstoppable in the second half and with Hark Galarion and Lester Lapuz backing him up, Saipan Tribune pulled away further for the easy win. Lapuz chipped in 14 points, while Galarion contributed 11.

Young gun Duncan Laxa paced Shirley's with his 18 points, while Junar Guiab and John Jugos added 14 and 12,

1-5 record and is out of contention for the Final Four slots.

Saipan Tribune, on the other hand, boosted its semis chances after gaining a 3-3 record and sharing third place with POI Aviation, which earlier in the first game lost to Kanoa Resort.

The second-running Kanoa Resort (5-1) also registered a

respectively. Shirley's fell to a double-digit victory over POI,

Douglas Schmidt reported late for the game, but made up for his absence in the first half by pouring all his 20 markers in the second. When the second half started, Kanoa Resort was down, 18-19.

Schmidt then knocked in back-to-back shots in the opening minutes of the second half and midway in that period traded baskets with teammate Ricky Bustillo to help Kanoa get win No. 5. Bustillo finished the match with 12 points, 7 of them came in the second half, while Benjie Sison also had 12 markers.

Nak Nakashima had 19 points for POI Aviation, which missed the services of scorer Ferdie Arago.

First Game

Kanoa Resort 65 — Schmidt 20, Bustillo 12, Sison 12, Encarna 8, Francisco 4, Pablo 4, Lumauag 4, Joab 2, Bata 1.

POI Aviation 51 — Nakashima 19, Santos 9, Villaluna 8, Deleon Guerrero 8, Kaipat 3, Paran 2, Mendiola 2, Bait 2, Kim 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-19,

Second Game

Saipan Tribune 70 — D. Ong 30, Lapuz 14, Galarion 11, Calayag 6, Rabago 3, J. Ong 2.

Shirley's Coffee Shop 53 – Laxa 18, Guiab 14, Jugos 12, Bordon 5, Alonzo 2, Dril-

Scoring by halves: 29-20,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Tribune's John March Ong faces two Shirley's Coffee Shop defenders after getting the rebound during their first round game in the 2017 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune Sports

Durant's 32 points send Warriors past LeBron, Cavs

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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Walter Macaranas drove in three runs each, while Pete Sablan closed out the game as the GSM Masters completed a 22-16 upset of the top-seeded Boleros in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League's Masters division finals last Monday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield

The Boleros were undefeated after 12 games in the regular season and dispatched the Papa Bears in their semifinal showdown to earn the first finals berth. However, the killer instinct and dominating form they showed in the elimination round were missing in their close to four-hour title match against the persistent GSM side.

Camacho scored twice and had a two-RBI single in

GSM's seven-run eighth inning that seemed to snuff the fight out of the Boleros. Igisomar went 2-for-3 at the plate with two runs and a two-RBI double at the top of the fourth, while Macaranas hit 3-for-3 and reached

home twice.

Sablan headed to the mound at the bottom of the seventh and thwarted the Boleros' attempts to steal the win. He

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By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com

Oleai field improvement begins



began yesterday with the removal of the grass before personnel of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort completes the ground work in time for Saipan's hosting of the Micronesian Athletics Championships this year.

A heavy equipment operator was seen using a loader in clearing the grass, which was collected at the side of the Oleai field as Northern Marianas Sports Association personnel would filter it to separate the dirt.

"We're going to use a sifter to remove the dirt, which we can still use again by laying it on the field," said NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi, who has been overseeing the daily upkeep and operations of the sports facilities in-



JON PEREZ A heavy equipment operator uses a loader to work at the center field of the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday.

side the sports complex.

"So when Laolao employees come in they would only level the ground before laying down the new grass. It is just a matter of scheduling with them. We expect work on the field to finish soon," the NMSA official added.

The removal of the grass is set for today, while separating the dirt from the pile could last a few more days.

A tiller machine loaned by Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony T. Benavente was used to soften up the field and break up the old grass. Laolao, on the other hand, has volunteered to improve the field and replace the grass to minimize injuries while playing or practicing at the facility.

"We [NMSA] are thankful for the help by DLNR through Sec. [Tony] Benavente and the management of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. We also wanted to thank the community for their patience and understanding as we try to complete the repairs and other improvements on the track facility," said Rogolifoi.

He added that repair work and other renovations at the sports complex are expected

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Sakisat, Camacho reap SBL awards

By JON PEREZ

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Veterans Mel Sakisat and Glen Camacho went home with three and two awards, respectively, to lead the individuals recognized at the conclusion of the Masters division competition in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield last Monday night.

Sakisat was named the

league's regular season most valuable player after a dominating performance on the mound the entire elimination round. He logged in numbers of 1.62 ERA and a total of 30 strikeouts.

Camacho, meanwhile, collected two titles in a field dominated by the Boleros. The Papa Bears slugger topped the league in RBIs with 19 then joined the Bole-

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JON PEREZ

The Papa Bears' Glen Camacho shows the two trophies that he earned during the awards ceremony for the 2017 Saipan Baseball League's Masters division last Monday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.